





# Democrats urge Reagan to withdraw Marines

WASHINGTON (R) — Opposition Democrats urged President Reagan to withdraw immediately the 1,800 U.S. Marines from Lebanon and begin using diplomacy to achieve peace in the Middle East.

For the second consecutive week, the Democrats used their response to Mr. Reagan's weekly radio address to press for the removal of the Marines from Beirut. Speaking for the Democrats in a nationwide broadcast, California Congressman Robert Matsui said: "I believe it is time to bring our Marines home from Lebanon — not tomorrow, not at some vague distant date, but now."

Saying the Marines are now seen as just another Middle East faction, Mr. Matsui declared that the longer the U.S. troops remain in Beirut the greater the chance is of direct conflict with Syria or the Soviet Union.

Noting the Oct. 23 bombing of Marine headquarters in Beirut which killed 241 Americans, Mr. Matsui said: "We are no longer a peaceful influence. We are in fact a lightning rod for terrorism."

Mr. Matsui said the United States needed to change its image in the Middle East from "a Marine with a M-16 (automatic rifle) to a diplomat with a real mission."

He said Syria freed Lieutenant Robert Goodman, the navy pilot it shot down and held captive until last week, because of diplomatic, not military, efforts.

"He was not released by gunships and war planes, but by calm discussion," Mr. Matsui said.

Li Goodman was freed as the result of a visit to Damascus by black American civil rights leader Reverend Jesse Jackson, a contender for nomination as the Democratic Party's presidential candidate.



A U.S. Marine gestures to Lebanese civilians to get back Sunday as Marines in background load the body of a Marine killed by a rocket-propelled grenade attack in Beirut (A.P. wirephoto)

## Pressure builds up for withdrawal of Beirut Multinational Force

LONDON (R) — Heavy casualties and a diplomatic stalemate in Lebanon are beginning to weaken the resolve of four Western nations participating in the Beirut Multinational Force.

Officially the United States, Italy, France and Britain still say a complete withdrawal of the multinational force is not being discussed.

But partial pullouts announced by Rome and Paris, at a time when pressure is building up in Washington and London for a withdrawal of troops, may indicate a sense of exasperation with efforts to stabilise war-ravaged Lebanon, Western analysts say.

France said that nearly a quarter of its 2,000 men in Beirut will be returning to less dangerous duties with a United Nations contingent in South Lebanon.

Informal sources in Beirut quoted Italian Defence Minister Giovanni Spadolini as telling Lebanese President Amin Gemayel that 1,000 of the 2,150 Italian soldiers in Beirut would be sent home.

Western military analysts say the future of the force could depend largely on forthcoming debates in Washington over the continued presence of 1,800 U.S. Marines in Beirut as calls for an American pullout grow in volume and prominence.

Some analysts say a complete, swift withdrawal of the entire force is not likely. But further casualties combined with lack of signs of peace in the offing could put immense pressure on the four governments to abandon the mission.

The force, which has grown to its present size from around 3,000 men when it was assigned to Beirut 15 months ago, saw casualties rising sharply as it was gradually sucked into Lebanon's civil strife.

The death toll peaked last October when 241 U.S. servicemen and 58 French paratroopers were killed by suicide car bombers.

"Things in Beirut have deteriorated steadily over the past few months," a London-based Middle East expert said.

"There is a growing feeling of exasperation among countries contributing to the force as they see the goal of bringing peace to Lebanon slipping further away."

In addition, doubts have been voiced by the three European participants in the force about recent U.S. actions in Lebanon, notably raids on Syrian positions east of Beirut.

Coming soon after the U.S. and Israel agreed to increase military cooperation, American-Syrian clashes raised fears that Washington was departing from the original goals of the force.

Those feelings were echoed by Italian President Sandro Pertini when he said last month that U.S. Marines were in Lebanon "in defence of Israel and not of peace."

The peacekeeping force was deployed in Beirut three months after Israel invaded Lebanon in June 1982, initially to supervise the evacuation of Palestinian commandos and then to help President Gemayel regain sovereignty over the country.

But efforts to remove foreign forces and achieve Lebanese national reconciliation were derailed in 1983, a year during which more than 3,000 people died in fighting, according to unofficial estimates.

The first round of reconciliation talks in Geneva among Lebanon's rival factions resumed in November and no date for resumption has been set.

Middle East analysts say there is no hope for a quick settlement in Lebanon. And they doubt whether the peacekeeping nations are willing to stay and see the long process through with the likelihood of further casualties.

One London-based expert said that by deciding on a partial withdrawal, Rome and Paris wanted to underline their concern at the growing U.S. military involvement in Lebanon.

"France and Italy wanted to send a clear warning signal to Washington that there was a limit to their commitment in Lebanon," he said.

In the United States, debate over the continued presence of the Marines in Beirut is expected to intensify as the presidential election campaign gathers momentum.

Democratic presidential hopeful Walter Mondale and three former directors of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) added their voices to a growing array of politicians demanding a U.S. pullout.

Although President Reagan publicly remains strongly committed to the Beirut mission, Newsweek magazine last week quoted a senior official of his administration as saying the Marines would be pulled out of Lebanon by mid-July.

Critics of Mr. Reagan's policies in Lebanon found fresh ammunition in a Defence Department report released sharply criticising safety measures in Beirut at the time of the attack on the Marines headquarters.

It went beyond investigating the incident and said Marines faced more dangers as U.S. military involvement grew deeper.

Mr. Reagan is expected to head top-level discussions on the issue before Congress reconvenes on Jan. 23.

The debate is likely to be affected by the findings of a hurriedly arranged Middle East tour by Senator John Tower, chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. Mondale said that after consulting the three European participants "we should begin our withdrawal immediately, pursue it expeditiously and complete it within 45 days."

Britain has said its 1,000 troops will remain in Beirut so long as they perform a useful role. British officials say that the commitment still stands but the situation in Lebanon is under "constant review."

Sir Anthony Kershaw, a senior member of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Party, has urged a withdrawal of the British contingent.

## Carter: Marines should be replaced by neutral force

BEIRUT (R) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said in an interview published Sunday that troops of a more neutral character "should take the place of the 1,800 U.S. Marines based in Beirut."

He told the Beirut English-language weekly Monday Morning that the U.S. troops, who arrived in Lebanon 16 months ago to protect civilians and help the Beirut government extend its authority, had lost what neutrality they had when they came.

He suggested they hand over their positions to troops "either from the United Nations or from perhaps India, Pakistan, Switzerland, Norway and so on."

The other contributors to the four-nation Beirut force are France, Italy and Britain.

## Kahane released on bail

TEL AVIV (R) — Rabbi Meir Kahane, leader of the extremist Jewish Kach (Thus Group), was released on bail Sunday after giving himself up to police who last week charged him with incitement to riot.

Kahane slipped away from police on Thursday after he was arrested for organising a demonstration in support of a shadowy Jewish extremist group which has claimed responsibility for grenade attacks on Muslim and Christian religious sites.

He went into hiding and said he would turn himself in to police only if they promised to release him on bail.

A court judge Sunday turned down a police request he be jailed for three days and released him on bail equivalent to \$221.

Kahane, founder of the militant Jewish Defence League in New York, has campaigned unsuccessfully for a seat in the Israeli parliament on a platform advocating the expulsion of all Arabs from Israel and a legal ban on sexual relations between Arabs and Jews.

## Portuguese foreign minister holds talks in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (R) — Visiting Portuguese Foreign Affairs Minister Jaime Gama met Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz Sunday for talks on developing trade and economic relations between the two countries.

The official Iraqi News Agency INA said both sides "expressed keenness to maintain the current good relations between them and to work for further developing them."

## Haddad suffering from cancer

TEL AVIV (R) — Members of the family of south Lebanese militia commander, Major Saad Haddad, said Saturday night he was suffering from cancer and that his condition was critical.

Two family members, who were not identified, told Israel television outside Haddad's home in Marjayoun, south Lebanon that only "God can now save him."

"He has received excellent treatment from Israeli doctors but his cancer is incurable and his condition critical," one of them said.

It was the first formal admission that the commander of the Israeli-supported militia had cancer.

He was first admitted to a Haifa hospital on New Year's Eve, said to be suffering from "exhaustion" although after his frequent admissions to hospital for short periods, Israeli newspapers reported he had terminal cancer.

## Gulf ministers hold talks today

BAHRAIN (R) — The Foreign Ministers of the six Gulf Cooperation Council countries will hold a special meeting in Riyadh Monday to coordinate their stand on various issues before next week's Islamic summit in Casablanca, the official Saudi Press Agency reported Sunday.

The ministers would also discuss "latest developments" in the Gulf region and the Arab World as a whole, the agency said.

The council groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

## Israel denies using tanks in Sidon

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli military command said Saturday night a patrol fired at a suspiciously parked car in Sidon in South Lebanon but denied news reports from there that tanks had fired down a main street.

The Israeli army spokesman earlier flatly denied any Israeli troops had fired in the main street or anywhere else in Lebanon.

Eye-witness reports from Sidon said armoured vehicles and tanks fired machineguns Saturday in three separate incidents, wounding three people.

On Saturday night the Israeli spokesman said that after detailed investigation "it was disclosed that an army patrol spotted a suspicious car parked on the main street where no parking is allowed because of the danger of car bomb attacks."

The patrol failed to find the car owners and fired shots from an automatic rifle into the car to see whether it was booby-trapped, he said.

When the patrol found the vehicle was not booby-trapped it continued on its way.

"The brief shooting incident on the main street and the unrelated car explosion apparently touched off panic among the civilians, but reports of Israeli tanks firing machine guns are absolutely untrue," the spokesman added.

## Denktash to meet U.N. chief in Casablanca

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash will meet U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar at this month's Organisation of Islamic Conference summit in Casablanca, Turkish-Cypriot officials said Sunday.

The Foreign Minister of the internationally-recognised Turkish-Cypriot state, Necati Ertekin, said he expected successful results from his campaign for recognition in Casablanca.

So far, only mainland Turkey has recognised the mainly-Muslim Turkish-Cypriot Republic, which declared independence in November.

Before leaving with two top aides for Casablanca Sunday, Mr. Ertekin told reporters the Islamic summit meeting, opening on Jan. 16, was highly significant for the new state.

"We expect seven or eight Islamic states to recognise our state," he said with elaboration.

Turkish-Cypriot officials have focussed efforts for international recognition on influential Islamic states such as Saudi Arabia, though so far without clear signs of success.

Officials told reporters that Mr. Perez de Cuellar, who last year launched a fresh effort to achieve a Cyprus solution, had requested a meeting with Mr. Denktash in Casablanca.

PARIS (R) — Chadian President Hissene Habre will be represented at ministerial level at talks in Addis Ababa aimed at ending the country's 18-year civil war, Chad's charge d'affaires in Paris told a French radio station Sunday.

A spokeswoman at Radio France Internationale said the envoy, Ahmad Allam-Mi, telephoned the

station to say that the arrival of rebel leader and former Chad President Goukouni Oueddei in Addis Ababa for the talks had eliminated any prospect of Mr. Habre's presence.

She quoted him as saying that Interior Minister Taher Guinassou would represent the Chad government.

## Habre will not attend peace talks, envoy says

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## Iran says Lebanese army detained Iranian diplomat

BEIRUT (R) — The Iranian embassy said Sunday the Lebanese army had detained a diplomat from the mission at a checkpoint in central Beirut on Friday.

An embassy statement delivered to Reuters by hand said the army took the diplomat to an unknown place of detention and "until today there has been no sign of life from him."

The Lebanese army spokesman said he knew nothing about the incident.

The Beirut government broke relations with Iran on November 24 and asked all Iranian diplomats to leave within a week. But Beirut Airport closed before the deadline.

Soon after the airport reopened on Dec. 16, the Iranian diplomats told the Lebanese Foreign Ministry by phone they could not leave because gunmen had detained them in the southern suburbs of the city.

They said they were in Ghobeire, an area controlled by Shi'ite Muslim militias sympathetic to Iran.

The embassy statement said Mr. Poushi was arrested close to the embassy, two kilometres from Ghobeire. It demanded his immediate release and accused the Foreign Ministry of doing nothing to have him freed.

## Australian journalist expelled from Bahrain

BAHRAIN (R) — A Bahrain-based Australian journalist has left the country on the orders of the government, apparently for taking photographs in another Gulf state, Kuwait, after a wave of bombings there, his colleagues said Sunday.

Staff at the weekly Bahrain-based Gulf Mirror newspaper said Geoff Spencer, 24, had left Bahrain Saturday night, 12 days after the Bahraini Interior Ministry told him he must leave within two weeks.

Mr. Spencer, a member of the Australian Journalists' Association, was deported from Kuwait, back to Bahrain, last Dec. 15

after he took photographs of Kuwaiti troops and military vehicles as part of a report for his newspaper.

He had been reporting on a wave of bombings in Kuwait on Dec. 12, including attacks on the United States and French embassies and official Kuwaiti installations, in which five people died.

On Dec. 21, the Bahraini Information Ministry said he would no longer be permitted to carry out reporting assignments outside Bahrain, his colleagues said.

Three days later, the Bahraini Interior Ministry said he must leave the country within 14 days.

### TV & RADIO

#### JORDAN TELEVISION

**MAIN CHANNEL**

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#### BBC WORLD SERVICE

06:00 Newsday 06:30 The Painter of Signs 06:45 Letter from London 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:05 Twenty-Four Hours News Summary 07:30 Aletta Kurners Rhythm and Blues 07:45 Personal Impact 08:00 Newsday 08:30 World News 08:45 World News 09:00 World News 09:05 Twenty-Four Hours News Summary 09:30 Sarah and Company 10:00 World News 10:05 Reflections 10:15 Arthur Rubinstein 10:30 Anything Goes 11:00 World News 11:05 British Press Review 11:15 Waveguide 11:25 Good Books 11:40 Look Ahead 11:55 News 12:15 Short Story 12:30 Rock Solid 12:40 World News 12:45 News About Britain 13:15 Anna of the Five Towns 13:30 Talking about Music 14:00 Radio Newsday 14:15 Jazz Scene 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:05 Twenty-Four Hours News Summary 15:30 Country Style 15:45 A Matter for Debate 16:30 The Time Press 17:00 Radio Newsday 17:15 Outlook 18:00 World News 18:05 Commentary 18:15 A Talent to Amuse 18:30 A Sense of Place 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:05 Book Choice 19:15 Just a Minute 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsday 20:30 Agony Column 21:00 Outlook 21:30 Slick Market Report 21:43 Look Ahead 21:45 Pictorial Choice 22:00 World News 22:05 Twenty-Four Hours News Summary 22:30 Sporting International 23:00 Network UK 23:15 Anna of the Five Towns 23:30 Rock Solid 24:00 World News 06:00 The World Today 06:15 Book Choice 06:30 Financial News 06:40 Reflections 06:45 Sports Round-up 07:00 World News 07:05 Commentary 07:15 A Talent to Amuse 07:30 Jazz Scene

#### FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 ... French Programme  
19:00 ... News in French  
19:30 ... News in Hebrew  
20:30 ... Comedy: Bulle Bill  
21:10 ... Documentary: Inside China  
22:30 ... News in English  
23:15 ... Han to Han: A Lighter Tan

#### RADIO JORDAN

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07:30 ... Light Music  
07:30 ... News in French  
08:00 ... Morning Show  
08:00 ... News Summary  
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#### VOICE OF AMERICA



## Jordanian company produces silver

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordanian Silver Refinery Company (JSRC), an Indo-Jordanian joint venture in the private sector, Sunday announced it has started producing silver in Jordan through a simple extraction process.

The first consignment of the silver, produced at the JSRC plant at the Zarqa Free Zone, is expected to be exported to Saudi Arabia in a couple of days. JSRC General Manager Joy Joseph told reporters.

Mr. Joseph confirmed that the silver was extracted from scrap material such as photographic films and film developer solution obtained from local sources.

At present the company has a production capacity of eight to 10 kilograms per day and in another three months' time the capacity can reach 100 kilograms "subject to the availability of scrap material," Mr. Joseph told a press conference in Amman.

Mr. Joseph, representing the Bombay-based Royal Corporation which provided the technical know-how for the project, expressed confidence that the production target of 100 kilograms per day could be reached "provided that present arrangements for procuring the scrap material from neighbouring countries go ahead smoothly."

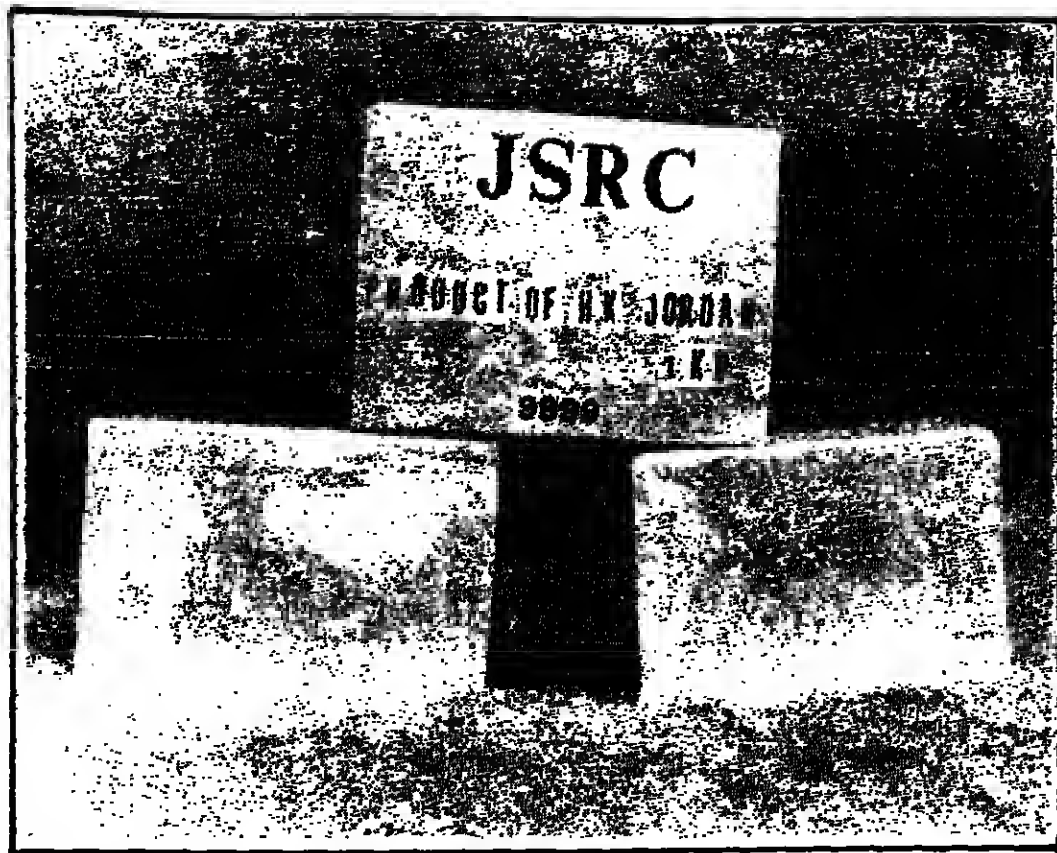
The scrap material available in Jordan at present, Mr. Joseph said, is not sufficient to meet the minimum requirements of the plant at Zarqa. However, since there was a good quantity of accumulated material the minimum requirements of the plant could be met, he added.

The silver produced by JSRC is 99.99 per cent pure and consequently the metal is of international standards. Mr. Joseph said, adding that it could be sold in international metal markets.

However, since Saudi Arabia is a very good consumer of the metal, for its various industries such as electroplating, jewelry manufacturing etc., JSRC does not have plans for marketing the metal in other markets at present, Mr. Joseph said.

Present activities of the company for extracting silver from the scrap material are confined to a 32-square-metre work area, employing some 15 people, Mr. Joseph said.

When the project reaches its



Three of the nine-kilogramme silver blocks produced by the Jordanian Silver Refinery Company

final stage the plant would have about 1,000-square-metre area and would employ 80 people, including craftsmen who would be engaged in producing silver jewelry, Mr. Joseph said.

Local Jordanian market does not offer much scope for the silver blocks presently produced by the company, he said. Current production is limited to blocks of 500 grammes and 1 kilogramme.

The Royal Corporation, which started the venture with its two Jordanian partners, Mr. Jameel Abdul Fattah Al Ramahi and Mr. Hassan Hammed Ikhsasa, some three months back, would have Indian technicians and craftsmen, about half of the JSRC workforce, according to Mr. Joseph.

"Since the nature of work involved is highly technical, it would be some time before the company can have a full Jordanian workforce," Mr. Joseph said.

The capital and profit-sharing arrangement between the Indian firm and its Jordanian counterparts is on a 40-60 basis, Mr. Joseph said. The plant would be hundred per cent Jordanian in 10 years, according to the joint-venture agreement.

Mr. Joseph stressed the fact that

this is the first time in the Middle East such a plant is set up and "from today Jordan becomes an exporter of silver."

Some of the jewelry, which JSRC would be producing in another three months' time, would find its way to the local market and the rest would be exported to Europe and the United States, the Indian businessman said.

He declined to give details on the proportion of silver yield to the basic scrap material, but only said that "it is highly feasible financially."

Mr. Joseph also displayed several blocks of silver produced at the Zarqa plant. The blocks were

of 99.99 per cent purity, he said, adding that "by virtue of the process and technical know-how which we are applying for the extraction, it is inconceivable that the silver produced would have any less than 99.99 per cent purity."

Apart from the silver refinery technology, Royal Corporation has several other proposals for recycling waste and scrap material in Jordan, Mr. Joseph said. Negotiations were continuing with several local firms and individuals, and the results would be announced quite soon, he added.

He did not give details of the proposed projects.

## Dudin to inaugurate toxic laboratory in Baqa'a today

AMMAN (Petra) — Agriculture Minister Marwan Dudin Monday opens a toxic laboratory at Hussein Agricultural Station in Baqa'a.

The laboratory was set up in cooperation with the German Aid for Technical Cooperation under

agreements signed between Jordan and the Federal Republic of Germany.

The laboratory, considered the first of its kind in Jordan, is aimed at studying the effect of insecticides on fruits and vegetables.

## Hussein receives U.S. delegation

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday night spoke about conditions in the occupied Arab lands and arbitrary measures which the Arab inhabitants are exposed to under Israeli rule.

King Hussein was speaking at an audience with the visiting U.S. congressional delegation led by Congressman Matthew McHugh, member of the Foreign Relations Committee in the U.S. Congress.

At the meeting King Hussein also reviewed the current Middle East developments and explained Jordan's stand and the Arab countries' endeavours to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The meeting at Al Nadwa Palace was attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor, Armed Forces Commander in Chief Lt-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem and U.S. ambassador to Jordan Richard Viets. The guests later had dinner with King Hussein.

The five-member delegation which arrived here Saturday on a three-day visit will hold talks with Jordanian officials and assess U.S. assistance programmes to Jordan.

Later Sunday the delegation met with the commander-in-chief. The meeting was attended by army chief of staff Fathi Abu Taleb and Mr. Viets.

## License issued for new magazine

AMMAN (Petra) — A royal decree has been issued approving the Cabinet's decision to grant Adnan Al Sabah and Fayez Hamdan a license to issue a weekly magazine under the name of "Al Ithnein" (Monday).

Editor of the magazine which will be issued every Monday will be Mr. Adnan Al Sabah.

Al Ithnein was established in 1963 as a political magazine, but was suspended because of events in Lebanon where it was previously printed.

## Social Development Ministry to hold seminar on Friday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The role of women in the field of information will be the theme of a seminar which will open at the Ministry of Social Development on Jan. 20.

Delegates from several Arab countries will take part in the three-day seminar which will tackle several aspects of women's work in the information media, mainly the press.

## Islamic Council launches efforts to restore holy sites in occupied land

AMMAN (Petra) — The Higher International Islamic Council on Mosques which concluded its meetings in Jeddah has established a special fund for Palestine and already started raising contributions for restoring mosques and other Islamic cultural institutions and heritage centres in the occupied territories, according to Awqaf Minister Kamel Al Sharif.

Mr. Sharif who was speaking upon returning from the council meeting said that the Jordanian delegation had submitted a working paper on the situation in the occupied regions and Israel's ar-

bitrary measures against the Arab population there. The paper outlined Israel's drive to isolate and weaken the Arab populations and pursue attacks and violations on places of

worship, Mr. Sharif said. The delegation also submitted a proposal for the establishment of an international exhibition about Jerusalem that will highlight holy places, the minister said. Adding that such an exhibition could be made to tour all Islamic countries.

Mr. Sharif said that the council's meetings were attended by delegates from all Islamic nations and representatives of Muslim communities in non-Islamic countries who discussed ways of highlighting the role of Islam in establishing world peace.

Also subjects pertaining to pilgrimage and ways to overcome problems confronted by Jordanian pilgrims were discussed, Mr. Sharif said.



Awqaf Minister Kamel Al Sharif (right) returns after attending an Islamic meeting in Jeddah

## Crown Prince to open seminar on Arab monetary cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will open here Saturday a three-day seminar on "scopes of Arab Monetary Cooperation."

Taking part in the seminar, which is organized by the Central Bank of Jordan, the Arab Monetary Fund and the Arab Thought Forum, will be Arab businessmen and executives of Arab financial institutions.

The seminar will discuss the role

of Arab funds in supporting balances of payment in Arab countries, the role of Arab monetary cooperation for financing trade, directly and indirectly, between Arab countries and ways for removing customs obstacles to facilitate free trade.

Also on the agenda are such subjects as strengthening Arab financial markets and coordinating monetary cooperation among Arab states with a view to

help in bringing about Arab financial and monetary integration.

Egyptian envoy to arrive

AMMAN (J.T.) — Egyptian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr. Mustafa Al Sa'id is due here Friday to take part in a seminar on Arab Monetary cooperation which will be held by the Central Bank of Jordan in cooperation with the Arab Monetary Fund and the Arab Thought Forum.

## 'Parliament restoration will boost unity'

(Continued from page 1)  
but it includes all aspects of life in the country."

Mr. Abu Sabha said that the parliament will strengthen ties between the people of the East and West Banks.

Mr. Abdul Wahab Al Tarawneh, a deputy for the Karak region, said the return of parliamentary life is a happy event to all people, for "they will be able to practise democratic life in its full sense." In respect to the effect of parliamentary life on West Bankers, Mr. Tarawneh said the House will endeavour to voice the people's demands and needs in the best possible way.

### 'A turning point'

He said that the restoration of the Jordanian Constitution is a turning point where the people, through their elected deputies, could control, supervise and follow up on people's interests within bounds of the Kingdom's constitution.

Another deputy from the Karak region, Mr. Abdul Wahab Al Majali, said the resumption of parliamentary life will strengthen the people's unity and will ensure a unified stance under the current circumstances. Mr. Majali said that democracy in Jordan will enable the country to face challenges and "it would be able to clarify to all the countries of the world its views on the Israeli occupation and Israel's arbitrary measures taken against the people living in the occupied territories."

### 'Essential pillar'

A deputy from the Irbid region, Mr. Rizk Al Batayneh, said the return of parliamentary life means the restoration of the constitution and the reviewing of the temporary draft laws of the country which "came in enormous quantities." Mr. Batayneh pointed out that the step also means ensuring an "essential pillar" in the country that of the legislative authority. He added that the return of the parliamentary institution stresses the strong ties and unity of the people in the two banks which "will enable them to face the Zionist aggression and its expansionist ambitions."

Mr. Batayneh said the House of Parliament is the right place to



Ramadan Hijjeh

highlight the requirements of the Jordanian citizens who "got used to express their needs in all aspects of life frankly and clearly."

A deputy from the Jenin region in the West Bank, Mr. Maher Irshaid, said the year 1954 marked the beginning of a new era in the history of Jordan. "The parliament conveyed that year with its members from both banks of the country, thus, a genuine and solid constitutional set-up emerged in the area amidst tremendous amount of hardships and difficulties," he said. Mr. Irshaid pointed out that the outbreak of the 1967 war and the suspension of the parliament in 1974 "had posed major obstacles and challenges to the growth and enriching of constitutional experience in this country." He said the restoration of the parliamentary institution in Jordan "would reflect the harmonious representation of our people along the two banks of the river for the fate of one part is tied to the other."

Regarding the situation in the West Bank and the importance of parliamentary life in this regard, Mr. Irshaid said the West Bank is facing a fatal tragedy and the ever-growing number of Jewish settlements there has been threatening its Arab identity.

### Imperative and necessary

"Therefore," he stressed, "the voicing of strong and clear words from the platform of this institution is imperative and necessary."

Mr. Irshaid added: "It is time for our people in the two banks to convey a message of truth and determination through its legislative organ, the parliament."



Edward Khamis



Abdul Wahab Al Majali

One of the five deputies representing the Jerusalem constituency, Mr. Moheiddin Al Hussein, said the restoration of parliament to Jordan is a necessary step to resume a legal constitutional course through democratic ways. Democracy, Mr. Hussein said, "is a manifestation of civilisation in most of the advanced nations." He added the by-elections that are likely to be held in the East Bank to fill eight vacant seats in the House "will revive the democratic political activity and the people will actually participate in shouldering the responsibilities through their elected deputies."

Regarding the West Bank representation, Mr. Hussein said the citizens will "pursue the struggle against the Israeli enemy until the end of the occupation."

"Later, the people will have to participate in playing their democratic roles as His Majesty King Hussein has said," he added.

Another deputy from the Hebron region, Mr. Ismail Hijazi, said the restoration of parliamentary life in Jordan is a "blessing to the



Muhammad Othman Abu Sabha



Abdul Wahab Al Tarawneh

country and has been met with satisfaction by the various sectors of the public."

"We will do whatever we can to save the Palestinian homeland," he said.

Mr. Hijazi emphasised that parliamentary life underlines the fact that the people on the two banks constitute one family. "Together we will draw up plans that will serve the higher national interests," he added.

A deputy from the Toulkarm region in the West Bank, Mr. Khalid Al Fayyad, said the recall of parliament is an important step in that "it represents all people in the country, sharing the responsibilities of all aspects of life, and voicing their requirements through their elected deputies."

Mr. Fayyad said that all citizens in Jordan look forward to participating in the democratic life and in shouldering responsibility with their representatives.

As to the West Bank, the return of parliamentary life is essential to preserve Jordan's legal responsibility there, Mr. Fayyad added.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Jordan to take part in Morocco meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government has formed Jordan's delegation to take part in an Islamic nations' foreign ministers meeting to be held in Morocco. The delegation will be led by Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, according to a report in Al Ra'i newspaper Sunday. It said that the foreign ministers will prepare the ground for an Islamic summit to be held at Casablanca on Jan. 16.

### JMC to revise fees for doctors

AMMAN (J.T.) — Doctors and hospitals' fees will be revised by the Jordanian Medical Association (JMA) at a meeting to be held Monday evening. A JMC spokesman said that the association plans to open the opportunity for new doctors to find work and to charge the minimum rates instead of the maximum rate, normally charged by well-established physicians and specialists. The JMC also plans to remove the ceiling on doctors' rates in hospitals and surgeries, the spokesman said.

### University forms new committee

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan has formed a preparatory committee for establishing an institute for environmental studies at higher studies' level. This institute aims at restoring antiquities, preserving architecture, and conducting studies pertaining to environment and its problems. The preparatory committee groups Dr. Awad Khleifat, Dr. Nimer Haikal, Dr. Mahmoud Abu Taleb, Dr. Anwar Al Battikhi, and Dr. Hani Khouri.

### Malhas signs agreements

AMMAN (Petra) — Several agreements were signed here Sunday by Health Ministry and a group of local companies for the implementation of various projects at a total cost of JD 331,143. The projects entail: Constructing lodgings for nursing college students in Amman, and a building to house the forensic medicine at Al Bashir Hospital, expanding Al Karameh hospital and establishing five health centres on the Desert Highway. Health Minister Zuhair Malhas and the general managers of the companies signed the agreements.

## Electric company starts new system of collecting charges

AMMAN (J.T.) — A new system approved by the cabinet, for collecting electricity charges, has been put into force as of Jan. 1, 1984, according to Mr. Marwan Bushnaq, director of the Jordan Electric Power Company's technical division.

He said that under the new system to be applied to Amman and Irbid, charges on electricity consumption will be collected every three months instead of every

month. Mr. Bushnaq said that subscribers have increased to 211,000 in Amman alone and the company's field of operations have extended to rural regions which warrant the new system.

Also the new system will save wages for employing additional collectors and save the subscribers the trouble of having to settle their bills every month, Mr. Bushnaq said.

## AWSA may restore water distribution system

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman Water and Sewerage Authority (AWSA) is considering restoring a water distribution system to various regions in view of this year's drought, according to AWSA Director Mohammad Al Kilani.

He said that a decision on the matter will be taken within a week. Last year's rains had of course replenished the underground reserves and AWSA had taken a decision to pump water to all regions around the clock.

## Ma'in spa project will be completed during 1984

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ma'in Mineral Water Spa project, the first therapeutic centre in the Middle East will be completed during the current year, according to Al Ra'i newspaper.

It said public utilities of the JD 12 million project, that include swimming pools and restaurants, are expected to be opened during the first half of the current year. A Jordanian medical team as well as employees and nurses will be employed at the centre and preparations are underway for training female and male youths in Madaba and Ma'in areas to man the centre, the report said.

Director of tourism at the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities Michael Hamameh said that the Ma'in Spa Project is a pilot project in Jordan and it will place Jordan in the line of countries which provide therapeutic services.



## DE FACTONOMICS

By T.A. Jaber

## Our parliament in session

TODAY IS a historic day for the unified East and West Banks of Jordan firmly integrated in 1950. The parliament, which was elected back in 1967, and was still functioning until it was disrupted by the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, will convene in Amman. The event has many implications over the relationship between the West and East Banks and over possible approaches towards a peaceful settlement in our region.

Every Jordanian, I dare say, will support this move in the light of its immediate and long-term implications.

The restoration of parliamentary life to Jordan has been an objective of its own

merit. It is a long-awaited move for balancing authorities and guaranteeing democratic representation. It shall induce deeper involvement of our people in shouldering political, economic and social responsibilities. Parliamentary life was experienced in Jordan for two decades and is now worth being restored; whatever shortcomings it had suffered.

The summoning of the 1967-parliament should be considered as a transitory mechanism towards electing a new one within 1984. Over the past 16 years, Jordan witnessed remarkable social and economic changes that should be reflected in the attitudes and stands of a new parliament.

Professionals and middle-class representatives along with women and workers should have much wider representation in the forthcoming elections than in the 1967-parliament.

New parliamentary elections will require adequate answers for many issues. The 1979 population census should be used as a base for the national distribution of seats. The total number of parliament member can be increased from 60 to one hundred. Who does legally qualify to run for candidacy and to vote? Perhaps a higher committee can be formed by the re-activated parliament to study these and other issues and to submit its proposals to the government.

The unity between the East and West Banks of Jordan is still alive and strong despite the Israeli occupation. Jordanian laws are still valid in the West Bank, through in many instances have been amended to suit the interests of the Israeli occupation. The Jordanian dinar is the strongest currency in the West Bank and its increased balances there represent a net annual transfer from and through the East Bank.

The Jordan government has been wrongly accused by Western press of not showing enough courage to step forward for a peaceful settlement. Some Western officials have informally claimed that Jordan had used the 1974-Rabat res-

olution on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as an excuse for inaction. Some writers even tried to allude that Jordan is doing economically much better under the 1974-Rabat resolution and that Jordan has no incentive to boldly pursue possible approaches for peace.

These claims are short-sighted indeed, because Jordan has always taken favourable stands towards promising peaceful initiatives from the United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 in 1967 to President Reagan's initiative in September 1982.

Jordan's ability to play a strong role in the peace process has been and is still constrained by the unwillingness of the

United States to bring Israel to acceptable peace, terms the so far inability of the PLO factions to reach agreement on the bases of co-operation with Jordan, and the pressures exerted on Jordan from time to time by other Arab governments, be it financially or security-wise.

The reconvening of the 1967-parliament will create hopes for the Palestinians under occupation and outside that they can see a possible end to the occupation and scattering. They would prefer to have the PLO co-operating with Jordan in this endeavour, but if the PLO decided to pursue its different course, most Palestinians will opt for an open rather than a dead-end road.

## A chance not to be missed

JORDANIANS and Palestinians have been engaged in intensive and simultaneous efforts to put things into perspective for the coming stage. Each effort is essentially important in itself, but in the end, both Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have to come up with a unified position on the various issues facing them, if we are to make progress and achieve our aims for the common cause.

Here in Amman, the recalled Lower House of parliament will be meeting today, for the first time in nearly a decade, to approve a constitutional amendment allowing for general elections to be held in the East Bank, while upholding Jordan's legal responsibility for the West Bank. As a senior government official explained in the Jordan Times on Saturday, the recall of the elected assembly "has nothing to do with the representation of the Palestinians of the West Bank. It is purely an East Bank development that indicates that we in Jordan feel that it is not realistic to expect our own political development to be forever frozen because of lack of progress on resolving the Palestinian issue."

In Tunis on the other hand, the Palestinian leadership has been holding intensive talks to chart the course for the post-Tripoli era and in the aftermath of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's visit to Cairo last month. Reports from there Sunday suggested that a tentative agreement has been reached between Fatah, the mainstream Palestinian organisation led by Mr. Arafat, and three radical groups which hitherto have called for the ouster of the PLO chairman after his "unilateral" decision to visit Egypt and hold talks with President Mubarak following the Palestinian evacuation from Tripoli.

The activity in Amman and Tunis is taking place against a backdrop of other developments in the region that are also important and connected to future steps on the Palestinian problem, and as such have to be taken into careful consideration.

Soon enough, Jordan will receive a personal envoy of Mr. Arafat, who will exchange with senior government officials here views on what is simultaneously taking place on the Jordanian and Palestinian political fronts, as well as on the international and regional levels.

This is therefore a period that requires from all of us to move carefully, but not indecisively, to assert ourselves and our objectives. It is a time when there is a growing need, on the part of Jordan and the PLO, to co-ordinate moves and activity very closely, so that hitches of any kind do not appear on the horizon to slow progress towards our common goals of ending the Israeli occupation of our land, and towards securing for the Palestinians their inalienable rights and aspirations.

The legitimate PLO leadership seems to have gone a long way towards consolidating its authority and asserting its representativeness of the Palestinian people in the post-Tripoli era. Jordan too has taken the courageous and promising step of recalling its elected assembly, and the people here are full of hope that the coming stage will be one of more confidence and progress. Both the Jordanian and Palestinian people want and need to work jointly for a better future, in harmony and unity. And here lies the best opportunity perhaps to do it.

## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

## Al Ra'i: Arafat's forthcoming visit

IN HIS meeting with Jordanian correspondents in Tunis Saturday, PLO chief Yasser Arafat expressed understanding of the constitutional reasons behind the calling of parliament for a meeting in Amman. He also said that he would come to Amman shortly for resuming the dialogue with Jordan on joint future action.

These statements underline the concern Arafat has for the future PLO relations with Jordan as he wants to further strengthen them and to safeguard the PLO leadership at the same time. This statement has lulled all attempts by Arafat's enemies who wished to see PLO-Jordanian relations severed.

No one can deny the heavy responsibilities of Arafat and the PLO leadership for maintaining the unity of the PLO and for striving to liberate the occupied Arab territories. Every one is called on to back the legitimate Palestinian leadership and to support the joint Jordanian-Palestinian action which should form the basis for every Arab effort aimed at settling the Middle East conflict.

Such joint action opens new avenues for both sides at the international level for reviving the peace process to settle the question. It is also bound to foil Israel's attempts to isolate the occupied Arab territories and to evict Arab inhabitants from their homeland.

## Al Dustour: Arafat warns against partition

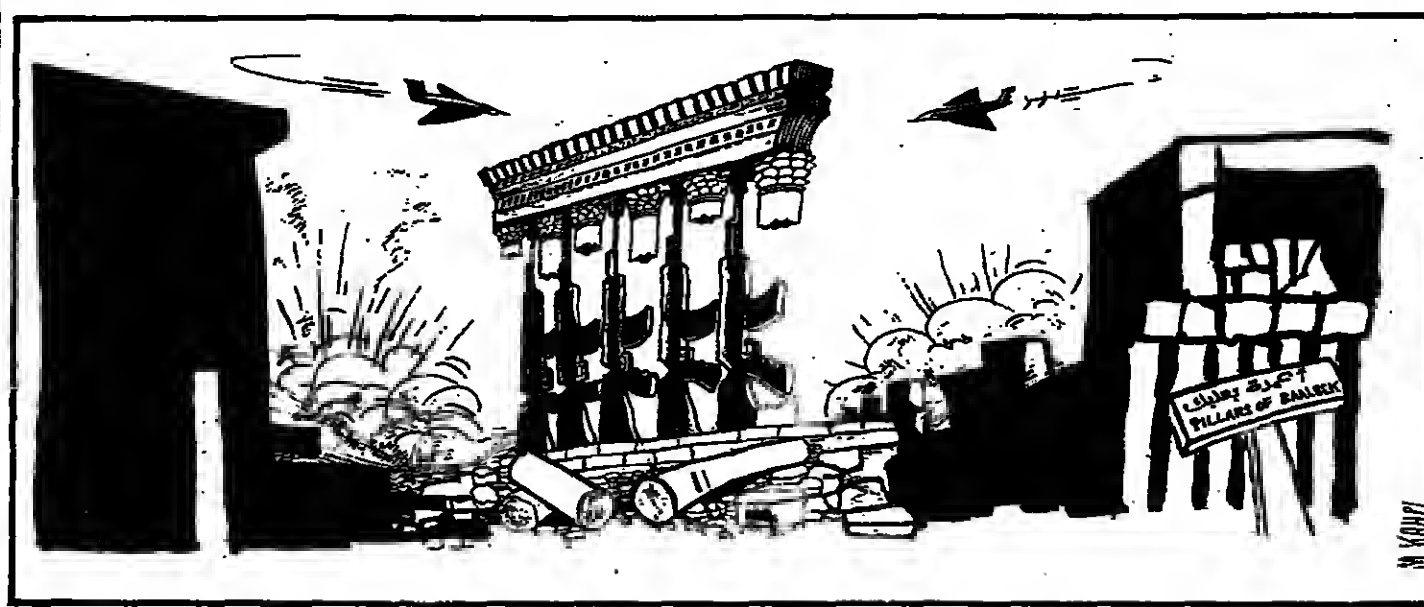
PERHAPS THE most dangerous part of Arafat's statement to Jordanian reporters in Tunis was his mention of a conspiracy that was designed to partition Lebanon into mini states and sectarian entities, and the resettlement of the Palestinian people in Lebanon. Arafat said that he had been offered a sector of Lebanon for establishing a Palestinian state as an alternative for Palestine but he refused. He said that a certain Arab state was involved in the conspiracy, engineered by Israel and the United States.

This conspiracy should open the eyes of the Lebanese people before anyone else to the danger threatening their country, specially after all the U.S.-Israeli talk of partitioning Lebanon.

## Sawt Al Shaab: Joint effort needed

JORDAN'S RETURN to parliamentary life has been welcomed by many sectors of the Jordanian public, who believe that the time has come for the public to take part in shouldering the government's responsibility. Democratic life will be established on firm basis of public awareness and the willingness by the people to participate in performing duty and bearing the responsibility of running their own country.

The return to parliamentary life in Jordan follows nearly a decade on suspending the old parliament and freezing elections until the time has become opportune for resuming democratic rule. Parliamentary life offers the chance for all citizens to offer their services for building a stronger and more stable nation.



## Nigeria's coup leader, Gen. Buhari, earns Western diplomats' praise

By Michael Battye  
Reuters

LAGOS — Nigeria's new military leader, Maj. Gen. Mohammed Buhari, has evoked enthusiasm among many of his countrymen with his solid style and pugnacious remarks on the government he overthrew.

The 41-year-old general has come across as serious and frank with a pleasant leavening of humour in his first broadcasts and public appearances since the military takeover.

Foreign diplomats, too, have been impressed by his start.

"He appears to be a man who knows exactly what he is doing without having any illusions about the seriousness of his problems," commented one senior Western envoy who talked to Gen. Buhari when he met the diplomatic corps last week.

Gen. Buhari is no stranger to power. He was a prominent member of the previous military government in its last few years before it handed over power to civilians in 1979 elections.

He acted in the key positions of petroleum minister and chairman of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), supervising the oil industry on which Nigeria depends.

Oil industry officials here say they are happy to welcome him back to power, describing him as an intelligent and straightforward man who was easy to deal with, listened well and was prepared to admit it when he had made a mistake.

Most Western diplomats have been similarly welcoming in private conversations, despite their regret at the passing of democracy.

They say they see in Gen. Buhari a sense of discipline and commitment that might help Nigeria out of its economic crisis and they believed was lacking in the ousted regime of President Shehu Shagari.

Gen. Buhari has an easier task in the early days of his gov-

ernment: winning the approbation of Nigerians, many of whom seemed delighted to see the end of what they considered a civilian government of the rich and for the rich.

Many Nigerians watched a televised recording of his first press conference in which he did not avoid questions, gave straight answers and spoke with an easy fluency.

He delighted many with his pugnacious castigations of the ousted regime for alleged corruption.

Diplomatic sources doubt that he was the prime mover behind the coup, although he leaves no doubt about his passionate commitment to what he has called "the cleaning out of the Augean stables," a classical reference to cleaning up a mess.

Nigerians like that passion, a complete contrast to the duller low-key Shagari approach.

The sources say Gen. Buhari was chosen as head of state by senior military colleagues as someone they respected and who had proven administrative ability and the best experience in government.

That collective approach to the acquisition of power is expected to continue in government and there seems little chance that Gen. Buhari will emerge as a military dictator.

"He is first among equals who chose him, not a dictator," one diplomat said.

Although Nigeria is divided tribally and religiously, so far there have been few expressions of resentment from the Christian south that Nigeria's new head of state is yet another northern Muslim, as almost all have been since independence in 1960.

Gen. Buhari is regarded as a conservative but not fundamentalist Muslim. Outside Nigeria, he is seen as a serious, conservative, rather ascetic man who will probably maintain oil prices over the next few months.

"He is conservative in the sense that he won't bolt the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) or reduce pri-



Ousted Shagari



Gen. Buhari

ces unilaterally. Our best guess is that he will concentrate on internal problems and try to keep (oil) production and sales up in the short term," an oil company executive said in the United States.

He is a familiar figure in OPEC where he represented Nigeria in the final years of military government before Mr. Shagari took over. Oil sales give Nigeria over 95 per cent of its foreign exchange income.

Oil industry sources in Lagos who knew Gen. Buhari as oil minister and head of the NNPC said he had solid knowledge of the international oil market and was easily accessible to industry officials.

They said that while the new military leader was better placed to take swifter decisions on oil policy than his civilian predecessor, they did not expect that such decisions would be radically out of line with OPEC's oil policy. Gen. Buhari has said Nigeria will remain in OPEC.

A professional soldier who did his officer training in Britain, which gave him his English accent, Gen. Buhari served as military governor of the vast north-eastern Borno state.

Gen. Buhari was a member of the previous military gov-

ernment's highest ruling body, the Supreme Military Council.

A United Nations economist said: "When I met him, I thought him a very cool and collected person, not flamboyant, demagogic or overfervent. He worked well with his technical advisers when he was in charge of oil."

Gen. Buhari is the seventh leader of Africa's most populous country since it became independent from Britain in 1960.

He won a reputation for toughness when he commanded a unit at the north-eastern border with Chad where a brief border conflict erupted last year.

One diplomat praised Gen. Buhari's thoughtfulness, saying: "He thinks about what he says before he says it and doesn't say things carelessly. He is a worldly, disciplined man, not your typical strongman."

Gen. Buhari was born on Dec. 17, 1942, in the village of Duara in northern Kaduna state. He attended provincial schools and the Nigerian Military Training College where he attracted the attention of British colonial officers who sent him to cadet school in Aldershot, England.

He is married and has two daughters.

## Brunei: World's richest, newest independent state

By Chris Sherwell

The people of Brunei, the tiny Muslim sultanate which assumed full independence from Britain on Jan. 1, are the first to acknowledge that their country is not what it was. Invaders and colonial expansion ended their domination of the huge island of Borneo, from which the country derives its name, and crowded them into a sandy corner which has itself been divided awkwardly into two.

But Bruneians are far from unhappy. They believe God has left them the best part, and it is a judgment fully supported by the country's fabulous oil wealth. Brunei's 200,000 people are near the top of the world wealth table with a per capita GDP of at least \$22,000 a year and probably more.

For visitors to the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan, the results are easily visible. They include a small airport boasting one of the longest runways in Asia, a vast floodlit sports stadium built for the 1985 South East Asian Games, a sparkling new hospital with the most up-to-date facilities and equipment, and, controversially, the stunning riverside palace for the sultan, Sir Muda Hassanal Bolkiah, which has been described as a modern Versailles and cost hundreds of millions of dollars.

Emergency laws imposed by the sultan's father — who later abdicated but remains even now a power behind the throne — are still technically in force, and a battalion of Gurkhas has provided a visible measure of protection for the royal rulers. The sultan also maintains a private army recruited from retired Gurkhas.

Differences over the continued stationing of the Gurkha battalion brought independence talks with Britain close to breakdown. In April a report which suggested that the link between Shell and the Brunei government might end unless the issue was resolved was strongly denied by Brunei but caused a real flutter.

## Workforce shortage

The sultan, who is 37 and has a passion for polo, has been criticised abroad for his conspicuous consumption and autocratic rule, but his subjects enjoy a life-style that would be the envy of most newly-independent nations.

Jobs are easy to come by, most families have at least two cars, petrol is cheap at 51 per imperial gallon, there is colour television and no income tax, and education and health care are free.

Small surprise, therefore, that Brunei has looked like a beacon of prosperity in a recession-hit world, and that numerous foreign companies have been beating a path to the fledgling state's door in the hope of new business. But if they can find something to do, they are expected to involve Brunei citizens, which means Brunei Malays, who constitute some 70 per cent of the population.

This could entail setting up joint ventures, subcontracting to local companies or simply employing local people — a problem, because Brunei faces an acute labour shortage. Some 43 per cent of the population is under 20, and half of the rest are women.

Skills are in short supply, and this is worsened by the fact that most Brunei Malays prefer to work for the government or in the oil sector.

A Shell paradise

Shell has long dominated the exploration, development and production of oil and gas, and this sector is still responsible for four-fifths of the country's output and 99 per cent of its exports, valued at more than \$3 billion in 1981.

The government has had a 50 per cent stake in Brunei Shell Petroleum, the main company, since 1975, which gives it a potent influence in policy at a time when reserves are known to be finite and need careful husbanding. Officially, there is enough oil to last into the next century.

Ex-British colony

The government, having controlled all but defence and external affairs since 1959, likes to point out that the country is self-governing and that, if anything, it is "resuming" its independence after a treaty relationship with Britain that stretches back to the mid-19th century.

The key question, however, and

one which dogged negotiations with Britain, concerns security. The issue is traceable to 1962, when moves towards introducing more popular government were halted by a revolt led by the Brunei People's Party. This was sparked by the prospect of Brunei joining the Federation of Malaysia, and had to be quelled by British troops.

Emergency laws imposed by the sultan's father — who later abdicated but remains even now a power behind the throne — are still technically in force, and a battalion of Gurkhas has provided a visible measure of protection for the royal rulers. The sultan also maintains a private army recruited from retired Gurkhas.

Differences over the continued stationing of the Gurkha battalion brought independence talks with Britain close to breakdown. In April a report which suggested that the link between Shell and the Brunei government might end unless the issue was resolved was strongly denied by Brunei but caused a real flutter.

## S12b surplus

In July the sultan ended the arrangements with the Crown Agents to manage Brunei funds and passed this lucrative contract — Brunei has foreign reserves totalling some \$12 billion — to Morgan Guaranty and Citibank, who will advise the newly-formed Brunei Investment Agency.

At the same time it is reckoned that worries over a possible repeal of the 1962 episode have been subsided because of the sharp rise in standards of living in Brunei, and that the bitterness which has animated past relations with Malaysia or Indonesia has evaporated. But elections in Brunei are unlikely, and political parties remain banned.

Asean member

The acceptance of Brunei into the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean), which embraces Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines — is reckoned to be the new state's best guarantee of stability. Admission as Asean's sixth member is due to be confirmed on Jan. 7.

One potential source of dissatisfaction in future could conceivably lie in the ranks of the civil service, as ambitious and well-trained administrators find avenues of promotion blocked by those now taking on the enormous responsibilities of full nationhood.

A more clearly expressed concern is the fate of the local Chinese community, who are known simply as "residents" and number more than 40,000. Even though they may have lived in Brunei for generations, they can only become citizens by passing a difficult written and oral language test to show proficiency in Malay. Yet as non-citizens they cannot own land and therefore have less of a stake in the country.

For them, Brunei's transformation is an occasion for genuine worry, even though there have been reassuring noises from the government, and Britain has expressed its satisfaction over the matter. — Financial Times news feature.

## Ho Chi Minh City no longer dances late

By Vithoon Amaro  
Reuters

HO CHI MINH CITY — The dark, broad boulevards of this city, called Saigon until 1975, were a festive air for a few hours recently as bicycles and motorbikes fought for street space, fireworks exploded and young people thronged pavements.

Many of those celebrating, as officials on New Year's eve lifted the midnight-to-four a.m. curfew, were fashionably dressed and some sported Western hairstyles.

The brief display was a small sign that, despite strict rules set down by Vietnam's Communist government, socialism has crept only slowly and ponderously into Ho Chi Minh City.

The economy here is a com-

plicated mixture of nationalised banks and industries, special manufacturing joint ventures between state and private sectors, and the officially tolerated free market.

Many whisper to visitors that life is hard under Communist rule. But Do Trung Chan, an official of the government tourist agency, said the standard of living had improved.

This is a city where many people earning a basic monthly salary of a few hundred dong manage to supplement their income enough to spend 50 dong a day on food.

According to Mr. Chan, Vietnamese can buy almost anything here if they can afford it.

He said residents of this city of 3.5 million now have stronger purchasing power because prices of necessary items have stabilised

over the past few years.

The most sought-after currency is the American dollar, which shops accept from tourists in preference to the dong. One dollar is officially valued at about 10 dong compared with a black market exchange rate of 130.

But while authorities look the other way at bits and pieces of capitalism, it is an uneasy truce.

Ho Chi Minh is the last Vietnamese city where a night curfew is still in force, a policy reflecting an official belief that its capitalist-oriented residents still need to be disciplined.

The curfew was lifted briefly on New Year's eve so that private and state-run cafes could extend their opening hours and allow people to celebrate in a city that never shut down when United States troops were here.

However, although people crowded the streets this time, their access to entertainment was limited.

Vietnam has for the past eight years banned Western dance parties for local residents. Nightclubs previously catering to American servicemen now feature only modern live band music listened to by packed audiences.

Residents of Ho Chi Minh City reminisce to visitors about New Year parties before 1975.

"I remember those full-swing parties on New Year's eve before the Communist takeover that often lasted well into the wee hours of the morning," one of them said.

Officials did not organise any parades to mark the New Year. That is reserved for the lunar Tet new year next month.

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "الله أكبر"



# Landlocked countries struggle in a world that is mostly water

By Joy Aschenbach

WASHINGTON — In a world that is more than 70 per cent water, countries without seacoasts are like fish out of water. Somebody else's territory cuts them off from the sea.

Today 30 of the world's 167 independent countries are landlocked, the number more than doubling since World War I. Half of them are among the 36 least developed countries on Earth, according to the United Nations — the poorest of the poor.

Generally small in size, landlocked countries are as different as Switzerland and Swaziland, the Vatican and Mongolia. Fourteen are in Africa, nine in Europe, five in Asia, and two in South America.

Dependent on their neighbours on the coast for the lifeline of goods, they are often the victims of somebody else's war, dock strike, trade embargo, tolls, and priorities. In a world in which about 80 per cent of all goods in international trade move by sea for at least part of their voyage, landlocked countries are cut off from the main flow of trade.

## Europe the exception

Bolivia, bitterly battling to regain the coast it lost a century ago, stages an annual reminder of its national claustrophobia, *Dia del Mar*, Day of the Sea. Nepal must put up with some of the worst transportation snags — between the port of Calcutta and its own Kathmandu. And in Uganda, people must pay more for imported powdered milk than their neighbours across the border in coastal Kenya.

Only in Europe is the geographic handicap barely noticeable.

That smallest continent's efficient rail and river network and integrated economic system help keep its diverse landlocked members prosperous. But neutral Switzerland in the Alps finds it necessary to maintain a small fleet of merchant ships that fly the Swiss flag — in case of a crisis. They mainly use German and French ports.

As a group, landlocked countries have banded together and won at least worldwide recognition of their special problems in getting to and from the sea. But in the recent rush to the sea's resources among industrial nations, they have been left behind.

The new United Nations Law of the Sea Treaty puts these increasingly important resources farther out of the reach of landlocked

countries. "The adoption of a 200-mile exclusive economic zone for coastal countries pushes landlocked countries at least another 188 nautical miles away from free access," explained geographer Martin J. Glassner, of Southern Connecticut State University, a leading authority on landlocked countries.

Previously, living resources beyond a 12-mile limit — in some cases three miles — were available to anyone. Most of the fish, known oil and gas reserves, and economically accessible minerals are within 200 miles of the shore.

## Geographic accidents

The harsh geographic and political fact: In most cases coastal countries hold all the cards.

Why then did some countries wind up landlocked? Most of them simply grew up that way, an accident of geography that placed them in the interiors of continents or of vast empires. For many, especially in Africa, their landlocked status came with independence and the end of colonialism. The newest state is Zimbabwe, which achieved independence in 1980.

Bolivia — one not only a couple of landlocked countries that once had a seacoast — lost it to Chile in the War of the Pacific (1879-84).

"The ocean is ours and we want it back," a government official said. The most aggressive nation in seeking a *salida al Mar* Bolivia had made this a consistent theme in its foreign policy throughout the 20th century, explained Mr. Glassner, who has long studied the Bolivian situation with support recently from the National Geographic Society.

In Europe, modern Austria, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia ended up landlocked remnants of the Austro-Hungarian Empire following its collapse after World War I.

In Asia, arid Mongolia, the largest of the world's landlocked countries with more than 600,000 square miles, emerged as an independent buffer state lying between the Soviet Union and China.

Being landlocked wasn't always a handicap. Hundreds of years ago it could have been considered an asset, Mr. Glassner said. "The hermit kingdom, isolated, with mountain ramparts to protect it, was far from foreign wars, invaders, pirates, and even hurricanes."

## Poor and landlocked

World wars and trade changed that. The lack of a seacoast became a serious problem after

World War II. Mr. Glassner explained, as more newly independent states struck out on their own and sought to join in a world of expanding international trade.

Nowhere is the situation more severe than in Africa and Asia, particularly Africa. All 15 landlocked countries on the U.N.'s "least developed" country list are found on these two continents. Even many of their coastal neighbours are poor.

Poor and landlocked, they are caught in a vicious cycle. Goods going into and out of the country cost more, are often delayed, damaged — or mysteriously disappear. And these countries have little to bargain with.

"One of Niger's biggest miseries besides drought is being cut off from the sea," said Doka Tahroubarke, a counselor at the African country's embassy in Washington. "Prices on nearly everything imported or exported are higher."

Once part of French West Africa, Niger is about two-thirds desert, has no railroad, and only one or two flights a day in and out of the country. And like many landlocked countries, it has few resources.

"We have some uranium mines in the north, but the uranium has to be trucked hundreds of miles to ports in Togo or Benin. Even if we found oil, our neighbour Nigeria already has oil that's nearer to the sea, with its own port," the counselor said.

Troubled Uganda at times has had its lifeline severed, particularly during the regime of former President Idi Amin. The border between Uganda and Kenya was closed for some time in 1976 after the Israeli rescue of the Entebbe Airport hostages. There were severe petroleum shortages not only in Uganda, but in its "doubly landlocked" neighbour, Rwanda, whose supplies were routed through Uganda.

## Few Options

Landlockedness leaves some countries with few options. In spite of Botswana's opposition to apartheid, it must maintain good relations with white-ruled South Africa, which surrounds it on three sides. Tiny black Lesotho, completely enclosed by South Africa, also is forced into alliances with its adversary.

Strikes on the docks of Calcutta, India, have halted the flow of goods to lofty Nepal. "Landlocked countries are always dependent upon normal conditions elsewhere," Mr. Glassner pointed out. "If there's a strike at the seaport, there's nothing they can do

about it. They can't send in the troops or even negotiate. All they can do is sit and wait."

Even under normal circumstances, transit agreements don't always run smoothly. "Goods sometimes get held up at the port for one to six months. There are clearance problems, and we have to have more meetings," said an official at the Nepalese embassy in Washington. To end the reliance on a single port, he said, Nepal is seeking a second outlet to the sea, via another neighbour, Bangladesh.

Landlocked Afghanistan was once cut off from the Arabian Sea for almost two years when hostilities closed the border to Pakistan. Before the series of closings in the 1950s and '60s, Karachi served as Afghanistan's principal seaport. Afghanistan turned to the Soviet Union for overland routes to other ports; the Pakistani port never regained its position.

The ideal solution for landlocked countries would be to dissolve the international border between them and the sea by merging with a coastal state. But that hasn't happened often — only once since World War II, when Ethiopia's Emperor Haile Selassie absorbed Eritrea, on the Red Sea. Today guerrilla groups are fighting for Eritrea's independence.

## Corridors to the sea

The next best solution is through international treaties setting minimum standards for right of access, or regional economic alliances among neighbouring coastal nations.

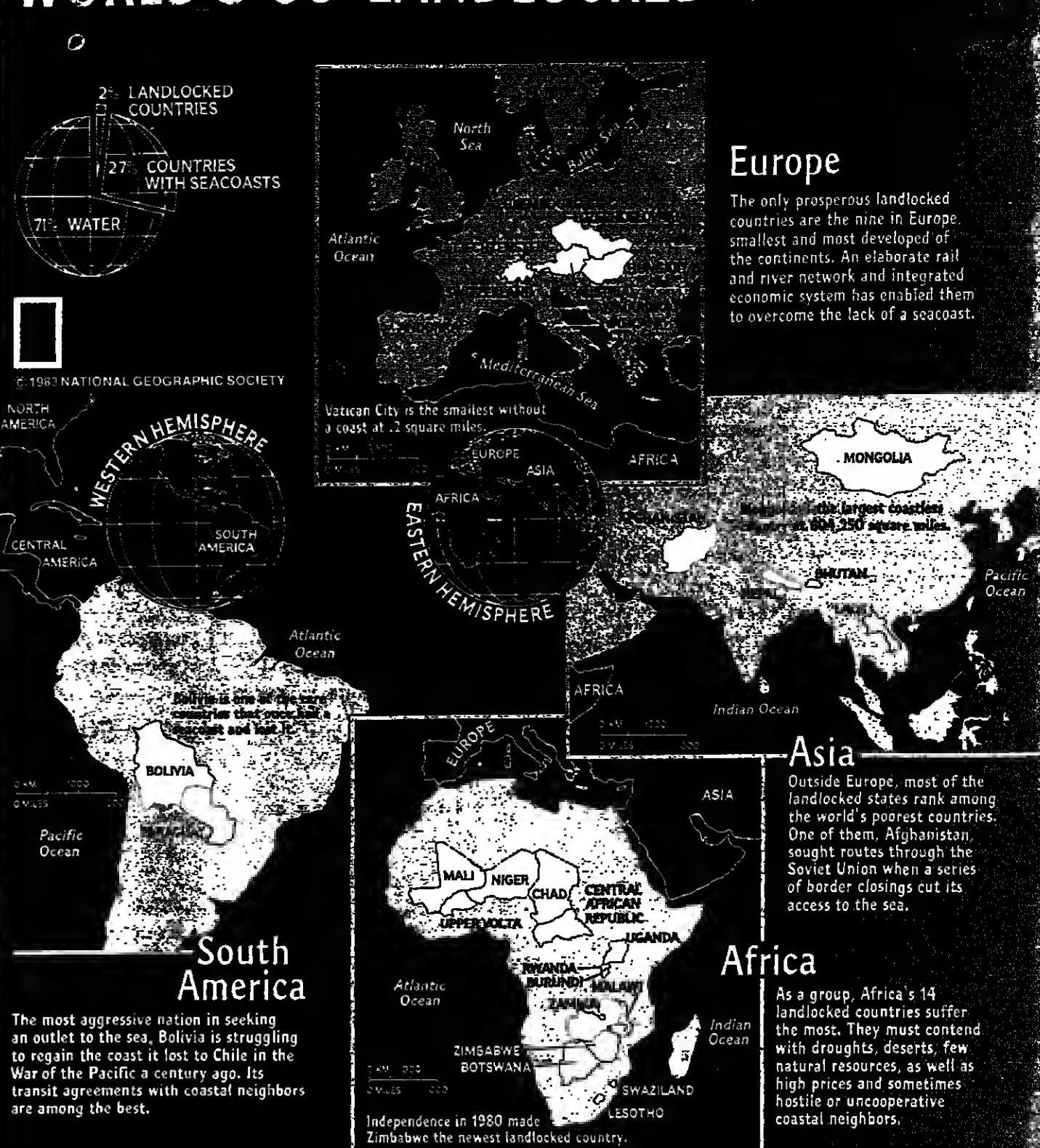
The first worldwide attempt to deal with freedom of transit was made by the League of Nations after World War I. The importance of a coast was embodied in the relatively new concept: "Corridors to the sea. Various post-war agreements granted corridors to countries such as Poland, Iraq, and what was then Transjordan.

Some countries wound up "barely coastal." Iraq has a sliver of land on the Arabian Gulf. Today's Jordan has a short seacoast on the Gulf of Aqaba.

Although such barely coastal states share some of the same problems as landlocked countries, "there's all the difference in the world between a coastline of even 500 yards and no coastline at all," Mr. Glassner said.

In 1965 the U.N. Conference on Transit Trade of Landlocked Countries marked the first time that an international lawmaking conference dealt exclusively with the question of access to the sea, particularly for those developing countries in Africa, Asia, and

# WORLD'S 30 LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES



# MUST CROSS BORDERS TO THE SEA

## South America

In the U.N. Law of the Sea Treaty adopted in 1982, landlocked countries gained a general recognition of their "right" of access to the sea, but only of "freedom" of transit across coastal countries.

"No coastal country is willing to admit that landlocked countries have a right of transit across their territory because that would be an

infringement on their sovereign power over their land," Mr. Glassner said. "Without a 'right' of transit, 'right' of access is meaningless."

Outside of Europe, the most successful regional transportation agreements have been worked out between Bolivia and its neighbours, and among the Economic Community of West Afri-

## ican States.

## No more Switzerlands

Although no nation in recent times has actually gone out of business by being landlocked, it's unlikely that any of the developing landlocked nations will overcome their handicap enough to become other Switzerlands.

Are there any places whose futures are landlocked? Possibly, but not probably. Mr. Glassner suggests. Some possibilities: If Zaire's mineral-rich Shaba (Katanga) Province were successful in its attempt to secede, it disputed and divided Kashmir became independent from India and Pakistan, they would be landlocked.

National Geographic News feature

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## Windies beats Australia in 1st World Series match

MELBOURNE (R) — The West Indies beat Australia by 27 runs here Sunday in the opening cricket match of the World Series Cup.

Australia, chasing the West Indies total of 221 for seven in their 50 overs, were all out for 194 in 46 overs.

West Indies vice captain Viv Richards, who hit a powerful 53 to help his side to recover from a poor start and later claimed the wicket of John Maguire, was named Man of the Match.

Richards and his skipper Clive Lloyd came together with the score at 34 for two after Lloyd had won the toss and elected to bat.

They put on 103 runs to lead the West Indies to a solid total with late support from Eldine Baptiste, unbeaten on 28, and Larry Gomes with 21.

Rodney Hogg was the most impressive of the Australian bowlers with three for 29 in his 19 overs.

Australia also made a bad start, losing Kepler Wessels for seven, Wayne Phillips for 11 and Kim

Hughes for five.

When Wayne Daniel had Greg Matthews caught behind by Jeff Dujon for two, Australia was in deep trouble at 44 for four.

Graham Yallop, injured while fielding during the morning, could not take his usual high spot in the batting order, but Allan Border, with an unbeaten 84, revived Australia's chances.

Veteran wicketkeeper Rod Marsh hit 31 but fell with the score on 108 and Australia added only seven runs for the next two wickets.

Pace bowler Rodney Hogg hit 21 and the injured Yallop 13 in a desperate rearguard action but the end came when Carl Rackemann was run out for two.

The West Indies pace bowlers shared the wickets, with Malcolm Marshall returning the best figures of two for 25 off nine overs, while sharp fielding by the West Indies

earned three run-outs.

Afterwards Lloyd said his bowlers had not performed as well they could.

"But it's our first game in Australia and we can only get better," he said. "We now know what to do."

Australian captain Kim Hughes said he was disappointed at losing but was pleased with his side's determination.

"Yallop's injury completely upset our batting line-up," Hughes said. "But I was absolutely thrilled with our fightback and it was a good bowling effort to restrict them to 221."

But Hughes said the Australian fielding had to improve by at least 20 per cent.

"I know we can do a lot better," he said.

South Australian skipper David Hookes, who has not played international cricket this season, has been recalled to the Australian side to replace Yallop for Tuesday's day-night match against Pakistan in Sydney.



UNITED OUT OF THE CUP

Bournemouth striker Milton Graham (right) scores against First Division Manchester United in the 60th minute of the English Football Association Cup third-round tie at Bournemouth, England.

Saturday when the Third Division home side knocked their opponents out of the competition 2-0. United goalie Gary Bailey (centre) is beaten as Lou Macari (12) left, prepares to intercept in vain. (A.P. wirephoto)

## Gomez upsets Lendl in champions tennis

ROSEMONT, Illinois (R) — Andres Gomez of Ecuador surprised a crowd of nearly 10,000 at the \$250,000 Challenge of Champions Tennis Tournament here Saturday night when he defeated defending champion Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 in their semifinal clash.

Gomez will meet Jimmy Connors of the U.S., who beat Poland's Wojtek Fibak 6-7, 6-1, 6-3 in the other semifinal.

Gomez, ranked 14th on the computer, used deft placement, his long reach and speed over the court to befuddle the world's second-ranked player.

"He can hit winners from any position on the court and that's really dangerous," Lendl said. "He always gave me trouble and if I hadn't expected a hard match tonight I would have been fooling myself."

In the final set, Lendl, who had been jumping, asked his trainer to look at his ankle and after having

iticed and wrapped he returned to the court.

"It didn't hurt me to run once I got it taped, but the thought of it was still there," Lendl admitted.

The Czechoslovak is expected to be fit for the Masters tournament starting in New York on Tuesday where he is the defending champion.

Gomez said he was thrilled with his win and looked forward to meeting Connors.

"We've been practising together the last three days. I've been getting killed. But it's going to be different tomorrow. If I play as well as I did today and he doesn't play as well, it's going to be a good day."

"The people here tonight weren't expecting a good match and they got a great one," Gomez said.

The winner will collect \$100,000 and the runnerup will get \$60,000.

## Slozil, Smid stunningly reach World Doubles final

LONDON (R) — Czechoslovak Davis Cup pair Pavel Slozil and Tomas Smid caused the biggest upset of the WCT World Doubles Tennis Championship to reach the final at the Royal Albert Hall here Saturday night.

Slozil and Smid toppled second-seeded Americans Fritz Buehning and Peter Fleming 6-7, 7-5, 6-3, 6-4 in the semifinal and face Swedes Anders Jarryd and Hans Simonsson in Sunday's final.

The Swedish Davis Cup combination went through with a 6-4, 7-6, 5-7, 7-6 victory in the other semifinal match over American Sherwood Stewart and Australia's Mark Edmondson.

Slozil and Smid hit peak form

after losing the opening set against the giant American pair — both are 1.96 metres tall — who were expected to give their opponents a drubbing.

But Buehning, who played sup-

erbly in the previous matches, lost his touch after the first set and the Czechoslovaks capitalised convincingly.

Jarryd and Simonsson, who have improved with every match here since losing their first, were too sharp for the oldest and most experienced combination.

Stewart, 37, and Edmondson, 29, had no answer to the consistently fine serving and accurate returning of the Swedes, who also kept cool in a fourth set crisis when Simonsson lost his service to trail 4-5.

They hit back by breaking Edmondson immediately and went on to take the tie break — and the match — 7-5.

The final in the \$186,200 event will be the first all-European contest in the tournament's 12-year history, and no American player will be involved for the first time since 1974.

## Mandlikova defeats fellow Czechoslovak, reaches final

WASHINGTON (R) — Hana Mandlikova defeated fellow Czechoslovak Helena Sukova 6-1, 7-6 (7-5) with a successful serve and volley game Saturday to reach the final of a \$150,000 women's tennis tournament here.

Sukova hit many shots into the net and said afterwards: "I had a

slow start and I just couldn't get into the match. Anything I did didn't work. Whatever she tried worked for her."

In the final, Mandlikova will play Zina Garrison who had a 6-0, 5-7, 6-2 win over fellow American Pam Casale.

## Record-breaking Budd can go even faster, says coach

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's barefoot running star Zola Budd, who shattered the women's 5,000 metres world record last Thursday night, has the potential to run even faster, according to leading British coach Wulf Paise.

Paise was at a Windswept Stellenbosch stadium as the tiny 17-year-old covered the distance in 15 minutes 1.83 seconds.

## Caulkins of U.S. returns to top form, wins 2nd event

AUSTIN, Texas (R) — Tracy Caulkins of the United States celebrated a return to top form by winning a second event Saturday at an international swimming meeting here.

Caulkins, who on Friday won the 200-metre individual medley, outstroked Kathleen Nord of East Germany in Saturday's 400-metre individual medley. She is the U.S. record holder in both events.

Astid Strauss of East Germany and Czechoslovakia's Jozef Hladky also took their second events. Strauss used an outstanding kick to win the women's 400-metre freestyle Saturday after taking the women's 1,500-metre freestyle on Friday.

Hladky followed his victory in the 200-metre individual medley with a win in the 400-metre individual medley.

Caulkins has won 47 U.S. titles, more than any other swimmer.

But she has not been in top form for the past two years and nearly missed this weekend's competition because of an infected cyst under one arm.

Friday's victory was her biggest international win in four years. "I knew I'd be mad at myself if I started feeling better on Friday and hadn't entered this meet," she said. "I'm glad I came."

Nord pushed Caulkins hard, but she held on for a win in 4:47.31 to East German's 4:47.46.

Strauss, ranked second behind Tiffany Choon of the United States in the 400-metre swim in 11:71 ahead of the high school senior in 11:15.

"I feel I controlled the race," she said. "I swam the time I wanted to swim. My sprint at the end came from within. Ever since I was small, I've always been able to have that kick."

A total of five pool records were

set Saturday, including a mark of 11:55.91 in the men's 100-metre backstroke by American Rick Carey who later led the U.S. team to victory in the 400-metre medley relay.

East Germany's Kristin Otto set a pool record in the women's 100-metre backstroke with a time of 1:32.61, beating teammate Katrin Zimmermann by three-tenths of a second.

Other pool records were in the men's 200-metre breaststroke by Canadian world record holder Victor Davis, in the women's 200-metre breaststroke by Japan's Hiroko Nagasaki (2:30.27) and in the women's 50-metre freestyle by 15-year-old Dara Torres of the United States.

Siong Ang of Singapore, a student at the University of Houston, won the men's 50-metre freestyle in 23.87 ahead of U.S. sprinters Rowdy Gaines, Chris Cavanaugh and Robin Leamy.

Hladky won the 400-metre individual medley by edging out the American record holder in the event, Jesse Vassallo, with a time of 4:29.24. Darja Petro of Yugoslavia was the other individual winner, capturing the men's 400-metre freestyle.

Hladky said: "I think I am in top form. I am pleased with the competition here and I was glad I could do well again today, especially against a good swimmer like Vassallo."

## Record entries for winter Olympics

SARAJEVO, Yugoslavia (R) — Sarajevo is ready to greet a record number of nations and athletes attending the 14th winter Olympics next month.

The men's and women's alpine and nordic skiing courses, the bobsleigh and luge tracks, and the figure skating and ice hockey rinks are standing by awaiting the arrival of the competitors.

And the Olympic villages for both athletes and journalists have been opened to receive their first lodgers.

Even the weather has been kind: After a longish spring-like spell in December the snow finally fell in Yugoslavia last week covering the mountains with a 35-cm thick layer.

Special teams immediately sta-

rted preparing the alpine and nordic courses although the organisers say they were never worried because records showed there was no February without snow covering the mountains around Sarajevo.

On the Bjelasica mountain Saturday a company of Yugoslav soldiers began stamping down the snow on the men's slalom and giant slalom courses.

"We can't guarantee the weather, but we know we've done all that is humanly possible," Pavle Lukac, a senior official in the organising committee said.

A record 45 nations have so far entered for the games well ahead of the January 29 deadline. They include 1,577 athletes, 1,217 men and 360 women — also a record.

The previous highest figures were in Innsbruck, Austria, in 1976 and in Lake Placid, New York, in 1980 when 37 national teams took part. At the first winter Olympics in Chamonix, France, 16 countries competed in 1924.

Among the last entries this week were Cyprus, Bolivia and Puerto Rico with one athlete.

Officials said the record entry for the Sarajevo Olympics was encouraged by the offer from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to pay expenses for the first three competitors from each of the smaller member-nations.

The 13-day games will start on February 7 with the Austria-Finland ice hockey match, but the official opening ceremony will be held on the eighth.

## Juventus go top of Italian league

ROME (R) — European Footballer of the Year Michel Platini of France put Juventus on the road to a thrilling 4-2 win over Genoa Sunday to take the Turin side a point clear at the top of the Italian first division.

But Platini's Brazilian rival Zico joined him as the League's top marksman on 11 goals after scoring twice in Udinese's hard-fought 3-3 draw at AC Milan.

Genoa twice drew level with Juventus, who went ahead through Platini after 23 minutes when he moved on to Marco Tardelli's free kick and flighted a cunning ball past Genoa keeper Silvano Marinari.

But Genoa silenced the Stadio Comunale crowd six minutes later when winger Massimo Briaschi escaped his marker to shoot home from the edge of the penalty area. Juventus needed just three

minutes to restore their lead. Antonio Cabrini heading home a long, deep cross. But with half an hour to go, Paolo Benedetti guided home a delicate header to pull Genoa level a second time.

But the league leaders refused to be denied and went ahead again when Domenico Penzo scored direct from a free kick. Paolo Rossi made sure of maximum points for Juventus when he netted his 10th goal of the season from the penalty spot after Platini had been fouled.

Torino moved into second place in the table following their goalless draw at Napoli, with champions Roma, who lost 1-0 at Verona to a second half goal by Antonio Di Gennaro, a point further back third. Fiorentina and Verona are equal fourth.

AC Milan went ahead early against Udinese when Franco Baresi

converted a penalty. Zico netted the equaliser when he helped an Antonio Viridis header over the line, but Udinese fell 3-1 down towards the end of the first half when midfielder Vinicio Verza and English striker Luther Blissett both found the net.

But Zico pulled Udinese back into the match with his second goal moments later and veteran midfielder Franco Causio grabbed an unexpected equaliser with four minutes to go.

Fiorentina captain Giancarlo Antognoni missed a penalty against Avellino, but made amends later when he crossed for Argentine Daniel Bertoni to head home and secure their 1-0 win.

Pisa clinched their first match of the season with a 1-0 win over struggling Lazio, while championship contenders Sampdoria crashed 2-1 at home against Ascoli.

### HAPPY NEW YEAR

Raymond Samaan Hairdresser  
ANNOUNCES

to his customers that he has moved to ISSA Saloon, Jabal Amman, before the fourth circle, near Jabal Amman Maternity Hospital. Tel. No. 42147.

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Phone Nancy Adams on 663160 or 663167

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Answers to the name "MATTI" size 30 cms high, 50 cms long. Colour black with brown face and legs.

Last seen at Jawablat, near Dog Handling Course.

Reward offered.

Call Tel: 816699



## Money changes prosper in M.E.

BEIRUT (R) — The scene is a dingy, 4-roomed apartment in a backstreet in west Beirut. The kitchen table is littered with cups sticky with Turkish coffee grounds, and several million dollars in banknotes.

An unshaven man in slacks, an open-necked shirt and a tweed jacket that has seen better days sacks \$2 million in neat bundles into a cheap plastic zip bag.

Muttering farewells to his friends, he heads out alone and unaccompanied with his load into the rubble-strewn streets of this war-ravaged capital.

The man is a courier, heading for Zurich where he will exchange the banknotes for gold bars.

The scene is one repeated dozens of times daily in Beirut, Amman and other cities around the Middle East where a multi-billion dollar trade in banknotes, gold and silver is an integral part of daily life.

His employers are 3 Lebanese brothers who daily buy and sell \$2 to \$3 million in Arab and international currency banknotes and some 30 kilos (110 pounds) gold worth around \$750,000.

They are one of about a dozen such firms around the region

which channel banknotes from hundreds of smaller money-changers to where they are needed at any given time.

They owe their existence and their prosperity to the Arab world's continuing mistrust of bank accounts, travellers' cheques and credit cards, and its hunger for readily accepted assets amid the uncertainties of everyday life.

The tools of their trade are computers and sophisticated electronic information systems, displaying their own gold and banknote exchange rates and keeping them in minute-to-minute touch with movements in the world's financial markets.

They are also an essential part of a billion-dollar business in smuggling banknotes and gold into countries such as Syria and Egypt, which have strict controls on foreign currency and other assets.

Turkey, too, was an important destination for the smugglers, until its newly elected government abolished such restrictions just a few days ago.

The cash and bullion moves easily across national borders, by land, sea and air. The so-called "re-export" trade is highly illegal in the countries receiving the

"imports."

But border guards can easily be persuaded to look the other way, the smugglers say.

### Jordanian explains trade

In another unprepossessing office off a main street in Amman, a money-changer is explaining the smuggling trade. Gold, he says, is only a small part of his business in comparison to currency.

What volume? "About two tonnes a month," he shrugs, lightly dismissing a trade representing \$180 million a year.

The customers are Damascus or Cairo merchants, needing the currency to finance their imports of foreign goods, or Arab women loading their wrists with gold bangles as their insurance against the vagaries of life.

"Arab women are the world's best economists," he explains. "When the gold price falls, they buy more jewelry. When it rises, they sell. They follow the market as closely as any trader in Zurich."

But a Beirut banker laughingly derides their lack of financial sophistication.

"Why bother with all that smug-

gling backwards and forwards," he asks. "I could keep it all in a gold or foreign currency account for them here. But they don't trust paper. They like to have it in their hands, to keep it under their beds or on their arms."

The couriers fly daily around the region, from Beirut to Jeddah, from Amman to Dubai, with their packages of Arab banknotes, occasionally slipping in to Zurich to exchange unneeded dollars, Deutschmarks or sterling for gold bars.

In the West, the shipments they carry would travel in armoured-palated trucks, guarded by squads of armed security men. Here, they take a taxi to the airport.

Yet, despite the violence that has become an almost daily part of life in Beirut, robberies are almost unheard of.

Nobody is quite sure why. "It just doesn't happen," a money-changer says. "But they're insured anyway."

Is the value of their packages never too much of a temptation to men unlikely to earn so much in their entire lives?

He shakes his head. "It's all a matter of trust," he adds.

## Saudi Arabia devalues riyal

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia Sunday devalued the riyal to 3.51 from 3.50 to the dollar, a spokesman for the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) said.

He said SAMA announced the move Sunday morning. It was the second devaluation of the riyal in two weeks.

Dealers said the move had been expected because of the recent sharp rise of the U.S. dollar on international currency markets.

SAMA devalued to 3.51 riyals from 3.48 to the dollar on Dec. 25 after weeks of speculation that such a move was imminent.

Interest rates on large Saudi riyal deposits at offshore banks in Bahrain fell after the Saudi devaluation announcement. Dealers said the devaluation had been widely expected as the dollar rose to its highest level in more than 10 years. The U.S. currency closed in New York on Friday at 2.8185/8200 marks and rose in weekend Gulf trading to 2.8195/8225 marks.

Riyal deposit interest rates fell at least 1-4 percentage point in reaction to the SAMA move as banks reduced their borrowings in riyals in quiet trading.

Last week, banks increased their riyal borrowings, expecting to settle in devalued currency, and had converted the borrowed funds into dollars.

Dealers said Sunday's devaluation would take some pressure off the Saudi currency, but they did not rule out a further riyal devaluation if the dollar continued to strengthen.

A riyal devaluation will help reduce Saudi Arabia's budget deficit, which was estimated for 1983 at about \$10 billion, as its oil revenues are paid in dollars and much of its budget expenditure are made in riyals.

## European Airbus — the \$3 billion dilemma

In the next few months Mrs. Margaret Thatcher will make a decision which is vital to the future of the new European Airbus.

In an exercise in industrial lobbying which could prove crucial for European efforts to challenge the U.S. in civil aircraft manufacture, British Aerospace will serve up a detailed presentation of the planned four-nation project to build the 150-seat A-320.

Industry executives' nerves will be quivering at the thought of how Mrs. Thatcher reacts — and not just in the U.K. Aerospace in France and West Germany's Messerschmitt-Boelkow-Blohm, which together with CASA of Spain are the other shareholders in the Airbus Industrie consortium, are looking for firm backing from Britain to allow the much-delayed A-320 project to get under way.

Signals will also be picked up attentively in government chancelleries in Bonn and Paris, and will spread as far afield as Seattle, headquarters of the world's dominant aircraft manufacturer, Boeing.

Mrs. Thatcher will have a decisive influence on the U.K. government's decision on whether to grant British Aerospace up to £400 million to support U.K. participation in the A-320.

This is not just one of the largest industrial development decisions of the Conservatives' last 4½

years. On it may also depend the fate of the several billion dollars (much of it funded, directly or indirectly, by the taxpayer) already put up by European countries over the last decade to finance aircraft collaboration.

At stake, according to Sir Austro Pearce, British Aerospace chairman, is "the fundamental question — does Europe want an aircraft industry of its own capable of being competitive, or does it want to become merely a subcontractor to the U.S.?"

Airbus Industrie is owned 37.4 per cent each by Aerospatiale (French government-owned) and Deutsche Airbus (now a 100 per cent subsidiary of MBB, which has some important public sector shareholders and merged in 1981 with the VFW aircraft group); 20 per cent by British Aerospace (owned 48 per cent by the U.K. government and 52 per cent by private shareholders, following denationalisation in 1981); and 4.2 per cent by CASA (Spanish government-owned).

Because of huge development and production costs at the start of the aircraft-building programme, all shareholders have made losses from Airbus operations. The A-300/310 projects will not reach break-even until well into the 1980s at least: the A-320, until the 1990s.

There is little doubt in France and Germany, the main sha-

reholders in Airbus, that the A-320 should go ahead. But when the green light will be given depends crucially on decisions taken in London.

The project will require roughly \$3 billion over the rest of the decade, mainly from government funds, to finance development and initial production costs. Airbus Industrie is calling for the project to be firmly launched by the end of the year in order for the first A-320 to roll off the production line by spring 1988.

The A-320, which will offer considerable savings in fuel costs compared with existing aircraft, has been talked about for five years. But its launch, originally scheduled for two years ago, has been put back continuously because of the crushing recession in the world airline industry.

All the partners accept Airbus Industrie's thesis that a large market will exist for the A-320 from 1988 onwards: much of it "stealing" from replacement aircraft now in service.

The A-320 has a total of 42 firm and 34 optional orders from Air France, Air Inter (the French domestic airline) — both controlled by the French government — and British Caledonian, which was the first independent airline to choose, on purely commercial grounds, the A-320 rather than rivals from Boeing and McDonnell Douglas.

But financial commitments to support the project have come so far only from the French government.

The Bonn government, like the British, is still agonising over whether to put up funds, and is due to discuss the matter at cabinet level.

The need for a decision is pressing.

"If we don't launch the A-320 before around the end of the year, we will never launch it," says Mr. Michel Lagorce, director of civil aviation programmes at the French ministry of transport.

Sir Austin stresses the launch aid request — like all the cash put up by European government support every Airbus programme — is for a deferred interest loan. The £400 million (\$508 million) would be paid out over the rest of the decade, not in a lump sum. "The money is not a subsidy or a free gift. We will pay back the loan, with interest and profits, during the 1990s."

This target may, however, represent only pious hopes. Since the U.K. set up launch aid in 1949, officials say the government has had a "less than satisfactory" return on aircraft support.

All three governments face, to a greater or lesser extent, a number of dilemmas, sharpened by the downturn in world airline sales. On the one hand the downturn has bitten deeply into orders and production of the existing range of wide-body Airbus (the 250-passenger A-300 and the newer 220-seat A-310).

On the other hand, the recession has underlined that Airbus must increase its range of airliners, to choose, on purely commercial grounds, the A-320 rather than rivals from Boeing and McDonnell Douglas.

Industrial policy: None of the three governments — especially London and Bonn, being most ideologically committed to free markets — dispenses money lightly on building up industrial sectors. But Europe faces a choice.

Either it supports its aircraft industry with budgetary cash now, in the hope of returns, or at least repayment of development costs, over the next 10 to 20 years.

Or else it allow Boeing, which has profited itself from considerable direct and indirect U.S. government support over the years, to build up a monopoly — a position equally unwelcome to three-market.

Boeing claims to be untainted by government support. It launches regular broadsides against Airbus subsidies. But the company admits that it built up its post-war jet airliner success — vital for financing later production runs — partly with government help.

The market for the A-320 exists. According to the independent British government study, carried out with the aid of seconded businessmen and mathematical forecasting models, the overall market for planes of this size is about 3,500 over the next 20 years or so.

The difficulty is to pick the right date for the plane's entry into service. Complicating the forecasts, this time — unlike with the launch of the widebody Airbus — the Europeans are pitching into markets in direct competition with the U.S.

Boeing and McDonnell Douglas are offering derivative aircraft, the 737-300 and the MD 80, in the same plane class. Boeing also threatens to bring in a new plane, the 7 Dash 7, to compete directly with the A-320, while McDonnell Douglas has a design for a MD-330.

Employment: European companies lack U.S.-style flexibility to reduce workforces in response to demand slumps. Boeing has cut

staff by 23,000 — about 25 per cent — over the past three years.

British Aerospace, Aerospatiale and MBB, which together employ about 25,000 people on Airbus programmes, and give sub-contracting work to many thousands more, are relatively over-manned. They urgently need the A-320 to maintain employment.

Overshadowing the employment question in the U.K. is the perennial debate over whether British aircraft companies would do better to collaborate with the U.S. rather than Europe.

The U.K. government shares the view of Airbus Industrie that a proposed multinational aircraft engine, the IAE-2500, to be built principally by Rolls-Royce and Pratt & Whitney, could be used to power the A-320. This could supplement the Franco-American CFM-56-4 engine which is the first choice.

Rolls-Royce is seeking about £100 million in British government launch aid for the IAE-2500. Ministers will study the dossier at about the same time as British Aerospace's application.

Britain will give the A-320 project its blessing if the treasury is satisfied that the programme provides a 5 per cent real rate of return over its life of 20 years or more. Yet forecasts like this can clearly never be made with certainty.

Underlining the tricky role that judgment has to play, an Aerospace executive says: "We don't want to launch this plane at any price. You need a professional approach. But a programme of this sort can hardly avoid risks."

— Financial Times news feature

**THE BETTER HALF.** By Harris

"I get so impatient with my diets... instead of WEIGHT loss, I get WAIT loss!"

**JUMBLE.** THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HISFY  
TOTID  
KLINTE  
BRYFLE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PANDA BILGE REFUGE GOSPEL  
Answer: The little witch had to stand in the corner because she was this — A BAD "SPELLER"

**Peanuts**

THIS IS THE LAST DAY OF THE YEAR

ALL IN ALL, IT WASN'T SO BAD

YOU KNOW WHAT I LIKED ABOUT THIS YEAR?

I'M STILL IN IT!

**Mutt 'n' Jeff**

WELL, BOYS, WE LOSE, BUT I'M PROUD OF YOU! YOU'RE REAL GOOD SPORTS!

GEE, THANKS, COACH!

WHERE'S THE REFEREE?

THERE! WE TOOK CARE OF THAT LITTLE CROOK!

...I WAS REALLY ON FORM AT SNOOKER LAST NIGHT. IN THE SECOND FRAME THERE WAS THIS LONG BLUE—

## YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Until Noon make sure that you are careful to break no promises. Until 8, strange things can occur that require astuteness on your part so be careful to get a better idea how to handle conditions.

**ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19)** Find best way to get out of some confusing condition in the morning and later you can study new interests, but don't commit yourself as yet.

**TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20)** Don't be too generous with friends today. Your feelings could have you quite mixed up if you don't use your common sense.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)** Take no risks with your good name in the morning. You will find that your friends are not available when you need them.

**MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21)** Avoid someone in the morning who wants to interfere with your job. Wait until later to discuss ideas with your boss.

**LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21)** Arguing with one in trade could get you into trouble in the morning. You would rather be less dependent upon others but be gracious about it.

**VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22)** Don't argue with a partner and avoid trouble in the morning. You have to be more tactful and diplomatic with others around you.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)** Although there can be delays, keep busy at your work. Perseverance is the keynote now.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)** Don't let your mate in any way in the morning. Take any health treatments that you may need. Become a more dynamic person.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)** Help a close tie who may be disturbed in the morning. Recreation may be too costly, so forget it. Strive to have greater security.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20)** Be calm in any conversations with others. Don't drive it isn't necessary. Use care with all your affairs.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19)** Do not begin the week with lavish spending or unwise investments. Think about how you can increase your income. Be happy in the evening.

**PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20)** Don't try to be forceful in gaining your aims in the morning. Analyze your position. Know what it is you want in life.

**IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY...** he or she will be someone who will want to be educated very early in life so give as much education as possible since later the mind will turn to more practical and worldly matters, someone who will do very well in business. A family person here.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

© 1984, The McNaught Syndicate, Inc.

## THE Daily Crossword

by Madeline Miller

**ACROSS**

1 Mercatorian items  
5 Sunk  
10 Waste allowance  
14 Arabian port  
15 Whip mark  
16 Stars  
18 City on the Red River  
19 City in Algeria  
20 Collision  
22 Type of hairdo  
24 Tokyo, once  
25 Skin design

**DOWN**

26 — diam  
28 Lagoons  
30 Leather flecks of old Greece  
34 Sprite  
35 Cooling drink  
36 First born  
37 Fuss  
38 Food fish  
39 Scrooge  
40 1 or 66  
41 Crabman, for one  
43 Eggs  
44 Bee lot  
45 Beginning  
46 Utter  
48 Go astray

**Partner or**  
51 Plunge  
53 Ramified  
55 Method  
59 Music of India  
60 Tidal flood  
62 Adriatic island  
63 Shake — thrury  
64 Gloomy, poetical  
65 Assert  
66 Pool  
67 Thing of value  
68 Writing on the wall

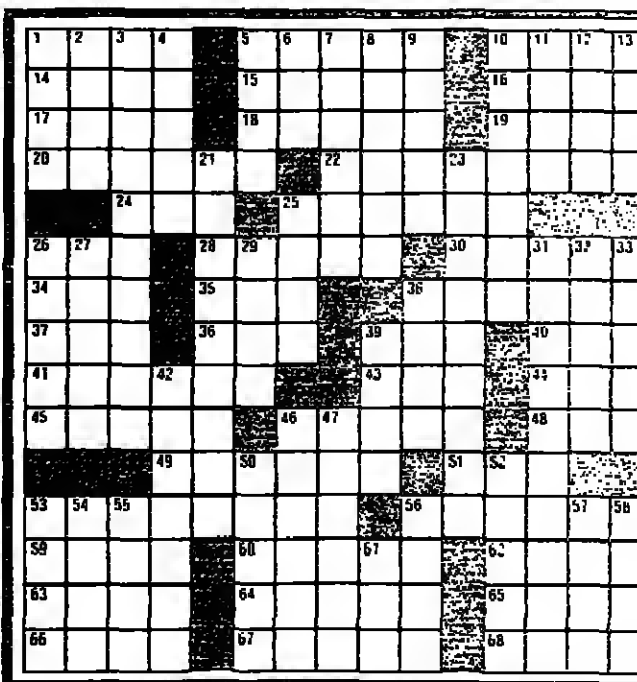
**DOWN**

11 — avis  
12 Spirit  
13 Circus millau  
21 Very satirical  
23 Rash  
25 — the line  
26 Upright  
27 German city  
29 Smell  
31 Discerning  
32 Chemical compound  
33 Herd animal  
36 Roof overhang  
39 South Aliean  
42 Between  
43 and 20  
46 Clips wool  
47 Shrubbery  
50 Bara of the silents  
52 Moslem religion  
53 Author Stoker  
54 Breathing sound  
55 Dying apparatus  
56 Spanish painter  
57 Residence of 2D  
58 Additional  
61 Charlotte of TV

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS: 1. MERCATORIAN, 5. SUNK, 10. WASTE ALLOWANCE, 14. ARABIAN PORT, 15. WHIP MARK, 16. STARS, 18. CITY ON THE RED RIVER, 19. CITY IN ALGERIA, 20. COLLISION, 22. TYPE OF HAIRDO, 24. TOKYO, ONCE, 25. SKIN DESIGN.

DOWN: 26. DIAMETER, 28. LAGOONS, 30. LEATHER FLECK, 34. SPRITE, 35. COOLING DRINK, 36. FIRST BORN, 37. FUSS, 38. FOOD FISH, 39. SCROOGE, 40. 1 OR 66, 41. CRABMAN, FOR ONE, 43. EGGS, 44. BEE LOT, 45. BEGINNING, 46. UTTER, 48. GO ASTRAY.





## Regional divisions cause snags in Central American peace talks

PANAMA CITY (R) — Disagreements between leftist Nicaragua and its four Central American neighbours have hampered progress at crucial regional peace talks organised by the Contadora Group.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jose Zambreno said Saturday after the start of talks marking the first anniversary of the Contadora effort that there were "misunderstandings". He did not elaborate.

But Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto said his Sandinista government objected to a proposal presented by El Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Honduras. The proposal would make key changes in a peace plan offered by Contadora.

"To present completely different proposals is a rejection of the Contadora initiative," Mr. d'Escoto told reporters at the start of the talks.

The sponsors of the talks, the Contadora Group made up of Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico and Panama, issued a statement saying the talks were being conducted "with all normality".

But diplomatic sources here said the Central American nations other than Nicaragua had shown little enthusiasm for the Contadora plan.

Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge, speaking to reporters in San Jose, said, "I don't even want to think about failure (of the talks) because it will be equivalent to war."

Contadora last year approved a 21-point peace proposal aimed at ending bloody guerrilla wars in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala. The conference this weekend was called for discussions on ways of implementing the proposals.

The plan calls for withdrawal of all foreign troops and advisers, respect for human rights and an end to the use of any country's territory as a base for aggression against another.

But the U.S.-backed Central American nations now have modified the Contadora proposal, advocating tight controls on foreign military advisers rather than their complete withdrawal. The four countries also now propose the "identification" and "control" of rebel groups without mentioning an end of support for them. Diplomats said the new pro-

posals were an attempt to isolate Nicaragua's left-wing government, which is accused by Washington of being the main cause for regional instability.

U.S.-backed rebels based in Honduras and other rebel groups based in Costa Rica have invaded Nicaragua, which has warned that further incursions could lead to war between the neighbouring nations.

### Panel insists on aid

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan's commission on Central America will recommend \$1 billion in U.S. aid for the embattled region over the next six years, but will tie it to observance of human rights and democratic practices, press reports said Sunday.

The 12-member commission, headed by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, ended work Saturday and is expected to present its report to President Reagan on Wednesday.

The New York Times said a draft of its report warns that the Soviet Union is threatening a "strategic coup of major proportions" in Central America.

The Times said the \$1 billion in U.S. military and economic aid would respond to "a direct threat to U.S. security interests."

It would include increased military aid to El Salvador and Hon-

duras, as well as resumed military aid and direct arms sales to Guatemala, cut off during the Carter administration due to human rights violations, the Times said.

The Washington Post said the report would call for Congress to certify that human rights were being respected before aid was handed out, a procedure which the Reagan administration has opposed.

It said the commission failed to agree unanimously on whether Washington should continue to aid U.S.-backed rebels fighting the leftist government in Nicaragua.

The commission also disagreed on whether left-wing rebels trying to overthrow the U.S.-supported government of El Salvador should be included in any power-sharing arrangements for forming a coalition government of national reconciliation.

The Post said the majority of the commission supported the administration's position that aid should continue to Nicaraguan rebels and that there should be no power-sharing with leftists in El Salvador.

The dissenting voices were those of two Americans of Spanish ancestry, Mayor Henry Cisneros of San Antonio, Texas, and Yale University Professor Carlos Diaz Alejandro, it said.

## Goukouni in Ethiopia for peace conference

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Former Chad President Goukouni Oueddei, head of the Libyan-backed forces fighting Chad's pro-West government, arrived Sunday for talks aimed at ending his country's 18-year civil war.

After the sudden death of Chad Vice-President Idriss Misikine Saturday there was no clear indication when the Chad government delegation would arrive from N'Djamena or whether President Hissene Habre would lead it.

Diplomats in Addis Ababa suggested the death of Mr. Misikine, who was also foreign minister, might delay the talks. Officials of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), sponsoring the reconciliation talks between the two sides, said they did not know exactly when the Habre delegation would arrive, though one said it was expected Sunday or Monday.

Mr. Goukouni's representative to the OAU and Ethiopia, Jean-Baptiste Laokole, told Reuters that as far as he knew, the talks would start Monday afternoon as planned.

Mr. Goukouni's delegation of about 130 arrived in the Ethiopian capital from northern Chad via Libya, a spokesman said.

Mr. Laokole said he would be joined shortly by Colonel Wadal Abdulkader Kamougue, the second highest ranking rebel leader.

A Habre government statement issued in N'Djamena last week said 700 of Col. Kamougue's men had deserted to the Habre forces.

Mr. Misikine was said to have died in N'Djamena after sudden bout of acute malaria. His death left the talks without their main architect.

Mr. Misikine was a giant of a man who fought for President Hissene Habre on the battlefield and in the conference hall. He had been in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa this week to make final arrangements for talks there to try to reconcile the two sides.

From the central Guera region, he teamed up with Mr. Habre, a northerner, and stood out not only because he was two metres tall but because of his soft-spoken conviction in the legitimacy of the Habre government.

Last year, when the Libyan-backed rebels of ex-President Goukouni Oueddei swept into Chad capturing major towns, Mr. Misikine was at the front with his troops while Mr. Habre was in N'Djamena appealing for Western aid.

But his contribution to Mr. Habre's efforts to gain international recognition was probably as important as his exploits in the civil war that has convulsed Chad for 18 years.

## Chinese press attack Soviet nuclear arms

PEKING (R) — The Chinese press warned Sunday of the dangers of the Soviet Union's nuclear arsenal and stressed mutual Sino-U.S. strategic interests at the start of premier Zhao Ziyang's much-heralded first trip to the United States.

The Chinese Communist Party newspaper People's Daily chose the day Mr. Zhao was due to arrive on the United States mainland from Hawaii to answer Moscow's accusations that Peking was taking an anti-Soviet stance over the nuclear arms issue.

The Peking Review, the official English-language weekly, also took the opportunity to print two articles by former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and former National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski pointing out mutual Sino-U.S. interests in containing Soviet power.

The strength of the pro-American slant inherent in the timing with Mr. Zhao's trip surprised political and military analysts here, although the People's Daily followed carefully Peking's policy of even-handed criticism of the superpowers' nuclear arms race.

"They have made it perfectly obvious there is a linkage," one diplomat said.

The People's Daily replied to

the Soviet army paper Krasnaya Zvezda (Red Star) which said on Dec. 31 that China had swallowed Western propaganda wholesale and mistakenly saw Soviet missiles in Asia as a threat.

The People's Daily said: "In the opinion of Red Star, if one tries to explain what sent the world situation from bad to worse one must blame the U.S. alone and must not criticise the Soviet Union."

"Yet, in Europe, no sooner had the U.S. started to position its Pershing 3 and cruise missiles than the Soviet Union announced it would place more new missiles in Eastern Europe and on its submarines."

Peking has made no secret recently that it views the Soviet Union as the world's main security problem.

In December Huan Xiang, director of the Peking Institute for Foreign Affairs told the West German magazine Der Spiegel: "We are closed in on three sides by the Soviet Union... therein lies the grave and direct threat of which I speak."

The same month, the New China News Agency (NCNA) said Moscow was intransigent in its attitude to a resumption of the Geneva arms talks and to escalation of the arms race.

## Row between Jayawardene, opposition threatens talks

COLOMBO (R) — A row which has broken out between President Junius Jayawardene and Sri Lanka's largest opposition party could jeopardise next Tuesday's all-party conference on the island's ethnic problems, political sources said Saturday.

Mr. Jayawardene has unleashed a bitter attack on the general secretary of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) accusing him of a breach of confidence and indulging in "untruths" concerning discussions the SLFP had with Mr. Jayawardene Friday.

The role of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who is trying to help find a solution to the tension between the island's majority Sinhalese and minority Tamils, has also been dragged into the controversy.

According to SLFP General Secretary Ratnasiri Wickramanayake, the president said the all-party conference was being held to please Mrs. Gandhi.

Mr. Jayawardene issued a strong denial.

The accusations appeared in letters between Mr. Wickramanayake and Mr. Jayawardene which were released by the Presidential Palace Saturday.

Mr. Jayawardene and Mr. Jayawardene which were released by the Presidential Palace Saturday.

The SLFP, headed by former Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike, is due to meet on Monday to decide its response.

Since ethnic violence broke out last July killing nearly 400 people, Mrs. Gandhi has been mediating between the Sri Lankan authorities and the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), which is leading a campaign for a separate Tamil state.

According to informed sources, shuttle diplomacy by Mrs. Gandhi's special envoy, Gopalaswami Parthasarathi, has narrowed differences between Mr. Jayawardene and TULF leaders.

Party sources said several parliament members had not arrived in Colombo from the southern Indian city of Madras where they have been living since the July violence.

Three other members returned to Colombo on Wednesday for discussions with the Indian envoy and other political parties.

## KAL disaster victims' relatives sue for \$329m

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Relatives of 47 South Koreans killed in the Korean Air Lines (KAL) Boeing 747 shot down by the Soviet Union on Sept. 1 are seeking damages totalling \$329 million, their lawyer said Saturday.

They are suing the Soviet Union, KAL, Boeing and Litton Systems Inc., which made the navigation system aboard the ill-fated airliner.

Attorney Melvin Belli said: "I think we have got a good viable suit against the Russians."

The suit charges the Soviet Union with cruel and premeditated murder of the airliner's passengers and crew. It accuses KAL of negligence for allowing the airliner to stray into Soviet airspace, while Boeing and Litton are alleged to have allowed defective products on board the aircraft.

Mr. Belli has already filed similar lawsuits on behalf of four

Americans killed in the incident and said he planned to sue on behalf of 40 other victims next month.

A total of 269 people were killed when the Jumbo jet was shot down by missile-carrying Soviet aircraft after it strayed over Soviet territory on a flight from Anchorage, Alaska to Seoul.

Mr. Belli said he expected the case to be heard later this year and his firm was now translating papers into Russian so they can be sent to Moscow.

Lawyer Charles Herman of Seattle, who is cooperating with Mr. Belli, said: "The claim against the Soviet Union is plain and simple — outright murder."

"It is technically based on the fact that the Soviet Union did not follow the internationally prescribed rules for warnings and commands for the plane to land before they opened fire," he added.

His mother, the party's president, has launched a campaign to revive its village-level contact with the people in an effort to drum up new support ahead of a general election due by January 1985. This could be Rajiv's biggest test.

Having taken over Sanjay's former parliamentary constituency in the north Indian district of Amethi, he now faces the prospect of a family fight with his brother's widow, Maneka Gandhi.

Maneka, 27, a former model and journalist, fell out with Mrs. Gandhi after Sanjay's death.

She formed her own political party last year and assisted in a dramatic defeat of the Congress in state elections in its former southern stronghold of Andhra Pradesh 12 months ago.

Now she has vowed to take on

## Democrats seek unified arms talks

WASHINGTON (R) — Congressional Democrats, accusing President Reagan of half-hearted nuclear arms negotiations with the Soviet Union, called Saturday for unified strategic and intermediate range missile talks.

The proposal to hold joint negotiations came in a party document issued by a House of Representatives Democratic group which strongly criticised Mr. Reagan's budget and defence policies.

Separate U.S.-Soviet talks on reductions in strategic and intermediate range nuclear weapons have broken down.

"America's present negotiating attempts are half-hearted," the Democrats said.

They added: "The Reagan administration's lukewarm engagement in arms control and irresponsible rhetoric about fighting and surviving nuclear wars have only intensified an already inescapable danger to our nation and the world."

## Kampuchean rebel leader urges Phnom Penh officials to defect

AMPIL, Kampuchea (R) — A leader of a guerrilla resistance group Saturday marked the fifth anniversary of the Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea by urging officials of the Hanoi-installed government to defect and join the fight to expel Vietnamese troops from the country.

Son Sann, head of the Kampuchean National Liberation Front (KNLF) and prime minister of the Resistance Coalition, said all Kampucheans should unite to pursue the common objective of liberating their country.

He made the appeal at a press conference at his headquarters here, some 1,000 metres from the Thai border, that was attended by about 50 Thai and foreign correspondents based in Bangkok.

They were welcomed by an organised rally, the burning in effigy of Vietnamese soldiers and classical dancing. They were later invited to lunch with Mr. Son Sann.

A KNLF official admitted the event was a public relations offensive designed to steal the lim-

elight from Phnom Penh.

The other members of the tripartite coalition are the Khmer Rouge, ousted from power by the Vietnamese occupation, and supporters of Prince Norodom Sihanouk who heads the coalition government of democratic Kampuchea.

Mr. Son Sann said the fifth anniversary of the Vietnamese occupation and installation of the Heng Samrin government was a celebration of Kampuchean sufferings and miseries.

He said indications were that people living inside Kampuchea were suffering from hunger and deprivation and added that this year a shortage of 130,000 tonnes of rice was expected.

The KNLF leader reiterated the coalition call for an end to Vietnam's occupation of Kampuchea.

"The KNLF is prepared to facilitate an honourable way for Vietnam to leave Cambodia," he said.

He called on Vietnamese and Kampuchean peoples to begin to cooperate with one another "to reduce the karma of hatred which

has existed between them for centuries, in order to prepare a new era of good relations between the two countries and the two peoples."

Before the press conference Mr. Son Sann appeared at a public rally at the camp's soccer pitch, patting babies and touching hands with old men and women as organisers harangued the 3,000-crowd to fever pitch shouting slogans of "Vietnamese go home", "death to the Vietnamese."

Only a few armed guerrilla fighters were visible at the camp which holds some 38,000 refugees and Mr. Son Sann explained that the troop camps had been separated from civilian camps.

"This separation should no longer give any excuse for the occupation forces from Vietnam to attack the homes of civilian inhabitants," he added.

Referring to Vietnam's expected dry season border offensive against coalition guerrillas, he said "What the Vietnamese troops will do during this dry season is still a matter of speculation. But we are prepared for the worse."

## Police searching for Koo's stolen tape

LONDON (R) — British police are searching for a stolen tape recording made by an ex-girlfriend of Queen Elizabeth's son Prince Andrew, a British newspaper said Sunday.

The Mail on Sunday said it had a copy of the 44-minute recording by Koo Stark, one-time nude actress, but said it was doing its best to keep it from other "unscrupulous hands".

Scotland Yard confirmed it was investigating the theft of a purse on Nov. 7 from Miss Stark, who had a widely-published 18-month affair with Prince Andrew, the queen's second son.

The Mail, sometimes accused by critics of intrusions into royal privacy, said a copy of the tape "came into its hands."

Under a headline "World Exclusive: Secrets of Koo's Stolen Tape", Mail editor Stewart Stevenson expressed his determination to honour Miss Stark's privacy. Without quoting the tape directly, he gave an 18-paragraph "interpretation" of it, describing Miss Stark's "love and frustration" over her affair with Prince Andrew.

Mr. Steven told Reuters that Mail agents agreed with "representatives" of Miss Stark in Miami, Florida, to publish a précis of the tape but he refused to say on what terms they were persuaded to agree to publication.

"They were in a position to stop publication of any sort," Mr. Steven told Reuters. "It was an informal agreement."



Koo Stark

Mr. Steven refused to comment on whether the Mail was publishing the contents of the tape while pretending it was not.

## Rajiv emerges as the rising star of Indian politics

By Chaitanya Kalbag  
Reuters

CALCUTTA — Rajiv Gandhi, the 39-year-old son of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, has emerged as the rising star of Indian politics at a national convention of her ruling Congress party.

Hailed by party workers as India's hope for the future, Rajiv took centre stage at the conference next to his mother and is regarded by many across India as her chosen heir apparent.

Critics accuse Mrs. Gandhi of trying to impose Rajiv as her successor in a bid to perpetuate a political dynasty. Her father Jawaharlal Nehru was independent India's first prime minister.

Mrs. Gandhi dismisses suggestions she is grooming Rajiv as her political heir, saying it is up to the people to decide. But few, even in her own party, take her at her word.

Rajiv made a triumphant entry into Calcutta for the conference aboard a special train festooned with placards and posters of himself and his 66-year-old mother,

who has ruled India since 1966, with a brief gap between 1977-81.

As he sat on the conference podium among the old men of the Congress leadership, he was described as "a rosebud in a bed of over-ripe cabbages" by Khushwant Singh, a leading political commentator.

A slow-speaking, slightly balding man, Rajiv was a late starter in Indian politics. He was drafted in by the prime minister after the death of his younger brother, Sanjay.

Until he died in a plane crash in 1981, Sanjay was his mother's chief lieutenant and played an important part in her period of emergency rule from 1975-77.

Rajiv, a former airline pilot married to an Italian girl, was content to sit on the sidelines.

"I was very happy with the airlines. But after Sanjay's death there was a void in the party, and a feeling that only I could fill it," he told Calcutta's main Bengali-language daily, Ananda Bazar Patrika.

He is one of five Congress Party secretary-generals. But so far he

has achieved position and influence without a fight.

Suggestions that internal party elections would be held at the Calcutta convention never materialised and no one has dared challenge his rise. Today, he occupied the de facto number two position after his mother.

"Crucial governmental decisions are made by the prime minister often only on the son's advice and often by the son himself," wrote H.K. Dua, the Indian Express newspaper's political correspondent, during last week's conference.

"The ill-concealed dynastic functioning is evident to the rank and file of a captive ruling party and no one dare question it," he added.

Hailed as "Mr. Clean" when he entered politics, Rajiv is building up a band of young men around him. Many have experience in industry and were his classmates at an exclusive private school in Northern India.

Displacing the white cloth caps of the era of Mahatma Gandhi, they have introduced modern

advertising techniques and computerised poll forecasting to Indian electoral politics.

Rajiv is trying to breathe new life into a party founded almost 100 years ago but now riven by internal bickering and saddled with stale ideology.

His mother, the party's president, has launched a campaign to revive its village-level contact with the people in an effort to drum up new support ahead of a general election due by January 1985. This could be Rajiv's biggest test.

Having taken over Sanjay's former parliamentary constituency in the north Indian district of Amethi, he now faces the prospect of a family fight with his brother's widow, Maneka Gandhi.

Maneka, 27, a former model and journalist, fell out with Mrs. Gandhi after Sanjay's death.

She formed her own political party last year and assisted in a dramatic defeat of the Congress in state elections in its former southern stronghold of Andhra Pradesh 12 months ago.

Now she has vowed to take on

Rajiv in his own constituency — and as Sanjay's widow she can command sympathy in Amethi.

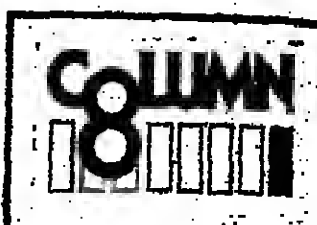
Rajiv, who is having to learn the cut and thrust of politics, used the conference to lash out at the opposition of both left and right.

He accused the Communist government of West Bengal, which has Calcutta as its capital, of economic mismanagement.

In a biting rebuke, West Bengal Finance Minister Ashok Mitra said he was "not prepared to learn economics from an airline pilot whose only qualification is that he is Mrs. Gandhi's son. We have our own economics and policies which have received the mandate of the people."

Mrs. Gandhi herself is particularly touchy about Rajiv. She refused to answer a question at a press conference here about how she assessed his performance as party secretary-general.

"Is it of national importance? I am not answering this question. Freedom of the press does not mean saying and doing things which are not in the national interest..." she said.



## Convicted thief has hand cut off

KHARTOUM (R) — A convicted Sudanese thief had his right hand cut off at a prison near here for stealing a traveller's bag at a bus station, officials said. The punishment was the second since President Jaafar Numeiri introduced the Sharia Islamic Law in Sudan last September.

## 247 endangered species in Russia

MOSCOW (R) — A new edition of the "red book" listing 247 endangered species protected by Soviet law has been issued in Russia, the official press reported Sunday. The book covers in detail protected fauna of the Russian federation, which stretches from the Baltic to the Pacific and is the largest of the Soviet Union's 25 republics. In his report to the last Communist Party Congress President Yuri Andropov said more attention had to be paid to ecology. In the past the environment has often suffered in the Soviet drive towards industrialisation and exploitation of resources.

## Mayor apologises for police harassment

PEKING (R) — The mayor of the central city of Wuhan has apologised to private traders for the way police drove them out of business by tearing down their stalls and smashing their tools, the China Daily reported. The English-language newspaper said Mayor Wu Guanzheng had promised to reimburse more than 500 traders for their losses and return business licences which had been illegally confiscated. Wuhan's urban environment and traffic office, which was responsible for the police harassment in the last two months, had also apologised, it added. The Guangming Daily last week called the police action "a blatant violation of the constitution" and pinned the blame on extreme leftists opposed to the recent revival of private enterprise. China has about three million private urban traders, involved in running restaurants, small shops, tailoring and other businesses.

## Soviet diplomat dies of asphyxiation

WASHINGTON (R) — A Soviet diplomat was found dead of asphyxiation at the Soviet embassy, but foul play was not suspected, police and medical authorities said. They identified the man as Evgeny Gavrilov, 32, a diplomat who came to the United States late last year. Washington Medical Examiner Douglas Dixon said Mr. Gavrilov died by "asphyxiation from a neck ligature." Police said a rope was found near the body.

## Soviets seek ways to fight alcoholism

MOSCOW (R) — Alcohol is a serious cause of distress in many Soviet families and increased efforts are needed to discourage the tendency to turn to the vodka bottle. Pravda said Sunday. The official Communist Party newspaper said it had letters from older children complaining how their lives were made unhappy because both parents took to the bottle after work. An answer, an educational science professor suggested in the newspaper's columns, was to teach adults to appreciate music, the theatre, exhibitions or just walking instead of heavy drinking. He said the greatest danger was to girls, who should be warned in school that women become alcoholics more quickly than men.

## Cat for sale: Complete with house

LONDON (R) — For sale: A Casanova cat called Kasper. The price: 40,000 sterling (\$60,000). The buyer gets to share a seaside love nest with Kasper and two of his ladyfriends called Pearl and Heather. Kasper is so attached to his home in Torquay, southwest England, and the two female cats which live nearby that he's staying put while his owners move to another part of the country. The Georgian-style house is being sold by Chris and Josie Peare with Kasper — actual value about £100 (\$150) — as a sitting tenant, because, they say, he's "totally infatuated" and it wouldn't be fair to move him.

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN  
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### FISHBEIN'S FLAIR

DEAR READERS: We have had many requests over the years for those hands that we consider to be our favorites. That makes quite a list. For the time being, therefore, we are devoting the Sunday column to a series of famous hands. At the end of the series, we will go back to our weekly question and answer column. North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH  
♠ J764  
♥ QJ4  
♦ K93  
♣ 1063

WEST EAST  
♠ Q2 ♠ 103  
♥ 653 ♥ 109  
♦ AQJ1064 ♦ 8752  
♣ Q5 ♣ AK972

SOUTH  
♠ AK985  
♥ AK872  
♦ Void  
♣ J84

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠  
3 ♥ Pass 4 ♠ Pass  
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♣.  
Harry Fishbein was one of the most colorful characters we know, at and away from the bridge table. He was known in the bridge world for his colorful speech, highlighted by double negatives, and his equally colorful berets. Never at a tournament would he be seen in the same beret twice! Few would believe that behind this character was a shrewd bridge mind, and that was good for many points, and as

many dollars.  
One of Fishbein's great attributes was that he could make life easy for his partners. This hand is a classic example. Fishbein, sitting West, overcalled two diamonds and his partner showed his clubs — to suggest a lead should the opponents buy the hand; had he been doubled, he would obviously have corrected to diamonds. But nothing could prevent North-South from reaching their reasonable four spade contract.</